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Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt, Syria, Jordan To Meet in Cairo 11 Sep

PM1508094491 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Aug 91 pp 1, 4

[Muhammad 'Allam and 'Abdallah al-Durdari report: "Move To Announce 'Arab Principles'"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, Damascus—[passage omitted] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has received a message from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat concerning the call for the drafting of an Arab "declaration of principles to be signed by the Arab parties invited to the proposed peace conference and to include foundations and principles to which the signatories would adhere in the negotiations—principles concerning Palestinian rights and representing guarantees to defend these and Arab rights as a whole in the occupied territories and holy Jerusalem."

In this context it has been decided to hold a quadripartite meeting among the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and the head of the PLO Political Department ('Amr Musa, Faruq al-Shar', 'Abdallah al-Nusur, and Faruq Qaddumi) in Cairo on 11 September on the sidelines of the 10 September Arab League Ministerial Council session.

Sources in Cairo told AL-HAYAH that 'Arafat has sent similar messages to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and King Husayn of Jordan.

These developments come within the context of what AL-HAYAH was told by senior Egyptian sources, namely, that the contacts and consultations among the four parties to surmount the Palestinian representation problem have resulted in "acceptance of the principle of the PLO's announcement of the Palestinian delegates' names, provided that none of them is directly linked to it."

They also come within the context of the continuing consultations on certain procedural questions between Jordan and the PLO vis-a-vis the delegation's leadership or rotation and the authority to which the Palestinian delegation would refer.

Informed diplomatic sources in the Egyptian capital have revealed to AL-HAYAH that long strides and major successes have been made in the question of the Palestinian delegation's formation within the Jordanian delegation and that Arab consultations among the parties concerned with the conflict with Israel are still continuing both with one another and with the United States and the Soviet Union with a view to resolving the East Jerusalem problem.

The sources said that the principles that the PLO has demanded be included in the proposed declaration concern upholding the Palestinian people's right to self-determination; the rejection of the existence of any settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; the inclusion of East Jerusalem in the occupied territories to be negotiated when implementation of international legitimacy—and especially of Resolution 242—is discussed; the right of repatriation for Palestinians in the diaspora; a unified interpretation of the resolution in question; and a commitment to the 1974 Rabat summit resolution stating that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. [passage omitted]

AMU Follow-Up Committee Convenes in Rabat

LD1508175391 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Excerpt] The proceedings of the 17th session of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] follow-up committee opened in Rabat today in the presence of the ministers in charge of AMU affairs and representatives of the five states to the permanent secretariat and the follow-up committee. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Negotiating Team To Discuss U.S. Guarantees

JN1508135691 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Basim Abu-Sumayyah dispatch "from the occupied territories"]

[Text] A Palestinian source noted that a Palestinian team, including Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Zakariya al-Agha, will leave for London tomorrow to prepare, along with Palestinian experts specializing in international law, the U.S. guarantees document on Palestinian representation in the peace conference, the nature of the transitional period, and the Jerusalem issue.

Delegation member Hanan 'Ashrawi told our radio that the team will hold its first working meeting, within the framework of its visit to the British capital, to draft the main outlines of the U.S. guarantees document. This meeting will include Palestinian experts and advisers from outside the occupied territories.

'Ashrawi stressed that reports on the formation of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations are untrue. She said that the PLO, which is in charge of forming such a delegation, will not announce any information in this regard before surmounting all obstacles facing the convening of the peace conference in October.

'Guarantees' Request Explained

JN1508152091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Amman, told our radio that a team of Palestinian experts will shortly begin to formulate

Palestinian views toward the letter of guarantees requested from the United States. He added that the PLO wants this letter to be formulated in Washington.

'Abd-al-Rahim added that the guarantees that the PLO wants from the United States represent a test to the seriousness and credibility of the United States toward the enforcement of international legitimacy.

He emphasized that these guarantees are crucial to the success of the peace process, pointing out that the PLO is eager to make the peace process succeed.

'Abd-al-Rahim added that the guarantees cover four basic principles:

1. Implementing UN Resolutions 242 and 338 that stipulate Israeli withdrawal from the 1967-occupied territories, including Jerusalem.
2. Acknowledging the national rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination.
3. Making Palestinian representation an internal issue, thus denying any party the right to interfere in this issue.
4. Halting immediately all settlement activity in all the territories, including Jerusalem, which should be present at the negotiations in terms of representation and substance.

'Abd-al-Rahim denied what has been circulating to the effect that some Palestinian figures have been nominated to participate in the peace conference, asserting that the PLO alone has the right to make the choice and that it has not yet done so.

As for the possibility of forming a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, 'Abd-al-Rahim explained that this issue will not be discussed before the PLO receives the U.S. guarantees. He pointed out that this issue will be taken up by the Palestine National Council next month.

'Arafat: No Signs of Response

LD1508194691 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Brother President Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, reaffirmed that there are no signs of a U.S. response on the guarantees that the PLO is demanding to participate in the Middle East peace conference. However, he said that the exploratory meeting held last week by a Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories with a team of experts from the U.S. State Department will be followed by others.

He said that the outcome cannot be decided before the end of the meetings between the two sides. Asked about the options being examined by the PLO, brother President Abu 'Ammar replied that we will not go into formalities before we secure guarantees on the content from the U.S. Administration. He asked if there can be a withdrawal from the Palestinian and Arab lands that were occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem. Is there an end to the settlement? Is there a right to self-determination for the Palestinian people? I consider that these constant factors determine all other forms.

He added: Before we talk about the issue of the joint delegation, it is necessary to say that we cannot accept the Israeli conditions under any kind of pressure. We consider acceptance of the Israeli conditions a surrender that we reject.

Brother Abu 'Ammar called on the Palestinians of the occupied land to be patient. He reaffirmed that the financial, political and information blockade imposed on us by brothers before friends, and by friends before enemies will not stop the Intifadah which will continue until the end of the occupation.

Team Member Views Guarantees, U.S. Stand

TA1508140591 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 14 Aug 91 p 3

[Interview with Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, member of Palestinian team that held talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Jerusalem, by Khalid Abu-'Akr; place and date not given]

[Text] [Abu-'Akr] Where do we stand now in view of the U.S. moves seeking to convene a regional peace conference?

[Al-Agha] We are now at a crossroads. Some matters have been crystallized while others have begun to crystallize. There are also matters that require further clarification. I believe that as Palestinians we will have to decide soon whether we will take part in the political process despite all that this entails or refrain from participating and bear the responsibility of that decision. The decision is not easy. Answering with a yes or no is replete with perils, but there is one basic issue, that is, we cannot take part in any conference at any cost, nor can we reject participation for the sake of rejection.

[Abu-'Akr] How do you see the U.S. stance in view of what you have heard from Secretary of State James Baker? Can we consider adequate what has been offered so far?

[Al-Agha] Despite some progress, the U.S. stance is still inadequate for absorbing the minimal Palestinian demands for a settlement. We are trying, as much as possible, to develop this stance and bring it closer to our minimal demands by asking for binding guarantees from the United States with regard to a settlement. If we succeed in this endeavor, the chance of our participation in the peace process will be great, but if we fail to obtain binding guarantees in writing from the United States with respect to political matters, such as the right to self-determination, total withdrawal from the occupied territories, the question of Jerusalem, and a halt to settlement activity, I believe that the possibility of our participation in the conference will be slim.

[Abu 'Akr] Do you believe that there is an American inclination to give the Palestinians the guarantees they demand?
[Al-Agha] The fact is that we have asked them for guarantees. They did not reject them in principle, nor did they agree to all our demands. Let us wait and see. Naturally, our decision will come after we have exhausted all possible means to obtain an overall picture of the situation. It is in light of this that the Palestinian decision will be made.

[Abu-'Akr] We can deduce that the guarantees which the United States will offer fall within the context of its general and declared political stances toward the conflict in the region, but it is possible that the American side will not respond to some Palestinian questions and demands. How do you see this?
[Al-Agha] Despite our skepticism toward U.S. policy and the long history of unhealthy relations between the Palestinians and the Americans, we cannot preempt events. We cannot say that there is no benefit from the United States. After we get all the clarifications and obtain a U.S. reply, we will be ready to report to the residents about the U.S. stance and whether it justifies our participation or not.

[Abu-'Akr] Could you explain the nature of the guarantees which you are seeking from the United States?
[Al-Agha] The guarantees are as follows: 1. Interpretation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338. This means trading land for peace and total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem. 2. The right to self-determination for the Palestinian people. This is a basic right acknowledged by UN resolutions. 3. The question of Jerusalem. This is an important issue for us. Making any concessions on the issue of Jerusalem or its representation is out of the question. 4. Suspending settlement before or at the beginning of the negotiations is a basic and fundamental issue because it concerns the fate of the land as well as our own fate. 5. The issue of the PLO and its right to form its Palestinian delegation, just as the other governments participating in the conference form their delegations. 6. The authority of the conference. This is based on all UN resolutions relating to the Palestinian problem from its inception in 1947 until now.

All these are fundamental points. We are asking the United States to give us clear commitments that it will try its utmost to have these points realized.

[Abu-'Akr] Let us go back to the first meeting with Baker. What did he propose to you, and what made you hold several meetings in the wake of that meeting?
[Al-Agha] Everyone knows that the PLO has been and continues to be subjected to a kind of siege in the wake of the Gulf war. President Bush has put forward initiatives to solve the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict. This was followed by the U.S. secretary of state's visits to Israel and the Arab countries. At that time this question arose: As Palestinians, do we remain spectators, and will the PLO isolate itself from what is happening? The Palestinians and the PLO had to be in the picture through some means, because the problem is basically theirs. It was necessary for them to be in the center of those moves to know what is happening. We had to impose ourselves on the arena even though some may not have liked it. The way to go about it was for the PLO to authorize some figures in the occupied territories to sit down with the Americans to ask for clarification of positions, be briefed about the latest developments on a settlement, and offer their views. Then the figures would relay all that they had heard and the information that they had obtained about the political moves in general to their leadership so that it would be in the picture and would be able to make a decision on this process at the appropriate time. It was not a negotiating posture but an exploratory one, seeking to bring the PLO and the Palestinian side into the center of events. We were the medium between the political moves, their initiators, and our legitimate leadership, the PLO.

[Abu-'Akr] Was this what induced you to continue the meetings?
[Al-Agha] Yes. I would like to stress here that we were not negotiators making concessions, giving answers, or saying "we agree" or "we do not agree." We have no right or authority on these things. That right belongs to the PLO and to the Palestinian decisionmakers on the highest Palestinian political levels.

[Abu-'Akr] But one who follows the meetings can see that there is a negotiating process with the American side.
[Al-Agha] This is not correct because negotiations mean that things are presented to us which "we accept or reject." We did not accept or reject; rather, we asked for clarifications, posed questions, and received answers. All these things were clear. At every meeting with Secretary Baker we stressed, whether in writing or orally, that we were neither negotiators nor a negotiating delegation, but representatives of the PLO. We only relay to the PLO what is happening and it makes the decision. The PLO alone can give an answer to any question by any party.

[Abu-'Akr] Recently the meetings have shifted to those with an American team, where the particulars required by the Palestinians to participate in the proposed peace conference were discussed. Don't you believe that these are precisely negotiations?
[Al-Agha] Again in this case there were no negotiations; rather, the Palestinian side presented the American team of experts with demands which it believes are necessary and should be included in the memorandum. The Palestinian delegation also asked that the memorandum be one of guarantees or commitments rather than a memorandum of understanding. The team of experts wrote down its observations because it cannot provide answers. We, too, cannot give answers. This confirms that no negotiations took place between the Palestinian delegation and the American experts for achieving a memorandum. Neither we nor the American team had any authority. What happened was that observations were to be conveyed by each side to its leaders.

[Abu-'Akr] Then who has the authority to discuss this problem at a time when the United States is declaring its refusal to conduct a dialogue with the PLO, or even to deal with it in this respect?

[Al-Agha] We hope that in the coming days a meeting will be held with a number of Palestinian and international experts in legal affairs to discuss all the problems relating to the memorandum of guarantees, so that they may give their opinion on this matter. I believe that this meeting will be held soon, most likely in one of the European countries.

[Abu-'Akr] Does this mean that it is this team which will have the authority to discuss the guarantees with the American team?

[Al-Agha] This team has no authority. It will assist us in discussing the legality of the issues that will be presented to us or the memorandum that will be proposed to us by the United States. This team will decide whether the memorandum is binding or not and how significant is it to us. Is it just a paper? All these matters will be decided by the experts. The Americans, too, have experts, as do the Israelis, who will make their decision on every word and letter. We, the Palestinians, will have an international delegation of experts that will include Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories, as well as members of other nationalities, to assist us in formulating the draft which the American side will present to us. After that we will decide whether this draft is acceptable to us and whether it provides us with the necessary assurances so that we may continue with the political process or if it is merely a proclamation and not binding. Then we will make a decision on the basis of the outcome of those meetings.

[Abu-'Akr] You met with the U.S. secretary of state six times during his visits to Jerusalem. Can you explain what the American side has proposed to the Palestinians?

[Al-Agha] The American side has proposed participation in a peace conference and settlement of the Palestinian problem in two stages: an interim stage and a final stage. The interim stage would last five years. At the beginning of the third year, negotiations will be held over the nature of the final stage. In their view the time limit for the negotiating period should not exceed the interim stage; that is, negotiations should not last over two years and should be concluded before the end of the interim stage, which is five years.

The American side also believes that during the interim stage the Palestinians should be responsible for all the territories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on which they will gain authority. This authority will cover the land, water, and residents.

[Abu-'Akr] In the Americans' view, with whom will negotiations be conducted during the final stage? Will they be conducted with the Palestinian delegation that will negotiate in the interim stage?

[Al-Agha] In their view the delegation will be from the occupied territories in the period preceding self-government. In the third year, the delegation will comprise Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories, including Jerusalem. The future of the whole of Jerusalem will be subject to negotiations, not only that of East Jerusalem.

[Abu-'Akr] Following the recent meeting with Baker, the Palestinian team expressed a great deal of optimism. What was the cause of this optimism? Was it caused by the U.S. secretary's proposals?

[Al-Agha] The fact is that in the recent meeting we sensed some kind of U.S. readiness to clarify the U.S. Administration's positions on specific issues. For example, with regard to UN Resolution 242, it was very clear in the Americans' view that this meant land for peace, Israel's withdrawal, and an end to the occupation. With regard to the right to self-determination, the Americans stressed that they supported this right if it meant a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinian state. They informed us that they understood the sensitivity of Jerusalem to the Palestinians. They emphasized that they were ready to guarantee discussion of the issue of Jerusalem, including its representation, in the second stage. They are also ready to announce, before the beginning of the interim stage, that anything that takes place during this stage will not signify a preemptive position on Jerusalem. That is, if there is no Palestinian representation from Jerusalem in the first stage, or if Jerusalem is not discussed in the first stage, this would not mean that the question of Jerusalem was not negotiable or that it was tantamount to acknowledging the Israeli stance on Jerusalem. Baker affirmed that they were ready to declare this in a clear statement with the Soviet Union, whereby the statement would stress that any arrangements made during the interim period or at the beginning of the negotiations would not signify that their positions on Jerusalem had changed.

[Abu-'Akr] In what way did the recent meeting with Baker differ from previous meetings?

[Al-Agha] At this meeting he was clear and specific. In previous meetings he used to say that the United States will try to do this or will study that. During the recent meeting, the American position and perception were clear. They expressed their readiness to guarantee the positions that they put forward at this meeting in a memorandum of understanding. Here, I would like to explain something. I don't believe that the members of the Palestinian team were overly optimistic. Perhaps there was some self-satisfaction derived from the atmosphere of the meeting, because many issues were discussed frankly and candidly, but I don't believe that there was excessive optimism. I believe that there was cautious optimism as we sensed flexibility by the American side, but I cannot say that it was adequate.

[Abu-'Akr] Why did you sense this suddenly during the recent meeting? Was there a specific reason for the clarity in the U.S. position?

[Al-Agha] There is a difference between the declaration of positions and commitments. We are seeking to obtain commitments and guarantees from the American side. The clarity in the U.S. position might be attributed to Israel's consent to participate in the peace conference. This is what Baker told us.

[Abu-'Akr] A large number of Palestinians are accusing you of preferring not to announce details of your meetings with the U.S. secretary of state. This evokes some kind of confusion and argument. Why did you decide to adopt such a stance?

[Al-Agha] The fact is that two parties bear responsibility for the confusion among Palestinians. The personalities meeting with Baker should have explained to the Palestinians everything that is going on, despite the fact that there are matters which we cannot discuss because we do not want to give information to western or Israeli media that might harm our efforts. But a way should have been found to explain to the Palestinians the facts about what is happening and the aims behind those meetings. On the other hand, there are parties in the Palestinian arena who are trying to provoke the residents and depict a wrong picture. Hence, the personalities who meet with Baker and with other parties bear a responsibility for the confusion among Palestinians. I believe that members of the team meeting with Baker should explain everything so that the residents would be aware of what is happening and would be able to judge correctly.

[Abu-'Akr] What should be the nature of this explanation?

[Al-Agha] The people should be told what the United States is proposing, what is happening at the meetings, the nature of the circumstances surrounding us as Palestinians, the various positions of the Arab states, and the minimal conditions acceptable to us. We have to point out the consequences of our participation in the peace conference without obtaining specific guarantees, or the consequences of our nonparticipation in a conference that might have the slightest chance of success. All these matters should be clarified so that everyone will be able to make a judgment on what is happening without being subjected to the ambiguity of one party and provoked by other parties.

[Abu-'Akr] Can you explain the Gaza residents' stance on the issue of the meetings?

[Al-Agha] There is opposition by some of the residents. Others have no objection to such meetings, but all want a logical solution to the conflict, provided that it is not at the expense of our Palestinian principles. There are parties seeking to provoke the residents, but after the wave of threats issued by one of the Palestinian factions, the residents displayed an aware and clear stance affirming that no faction should impose its views by force. They condemned efforts to disrupt unity and conciliation among the Palestinian people.

[Abu-'Akr] You personally received such threats. What is your comment?

[Al-Agha] They are irresponsible threats that might push Palestinian society toward dissension and civil war. I believe that everyone should confront such a behavior and try to convince those indulging in threats that they are not following the right way. There is an interest by the people, and this is one of the marks of democracy. I believe that opposition and support enhance the Palestinian decisionmaking, but differences leading to threats and accusations—this is rejected by the entire Palestinian people.

Algeria

Defense Minister on Security, Army Modernization

LD1408135691 Rabat MAP in English 1313 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Algiers, Aug 14 (MAP)—The Arab Maghreb security comes second in Algerian concerns after the national security, said Tuesday Algerian Defense Minister Khaled Nezzar. The minister who made the statement while submitting before the parliament the draft bill standing as a military program said the Arab Maghreb region is a priority in Algerian external political, economic and cultural relations as well as in cooperation in matters of defense.

Nezzar underlined that the country's security comes on top of Algiers' concerns because the country's independence, autonomy and freedom of action largely depends on it. Expounding Algeria's military program, the minister said his country has to exert sustained efforts in matters of defense so as to modernise the Algerian Army's skills and create a military industry.

Parties Discuss Electoral Law, State of Siege

LD1508131691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] We have learned that the consultations taking place within the framework of the group of 24 parties have resulted so far in unanimity about a number of matters such as the need for reviewing the electoral law and electoral constituencies' distribution. Differences still continue, however, in respect to some other issues such as the siege.

Some parties have proposed calling for the lifting of the state of siege, while other parties favor maintaining it until such time when more favorable conditions exist. However, those opposing the continuation of the state of siege believe that its continuation will mean a lengthy postponement of the election, since it will not be possible for the parties to conduct their campaigns under the shadow of the state of siege.

There is still one other point which has not been settled, namely, the parliamentary bloc—i.e. the number of people's representatives at the National People's Assembly. Regarding the release of political detainees, informed sources say that some parties have been demanding the release of these detainees, while other parties feel that the law should run its course. There also are differences in the views of the parties over the question of dismissed workers and the holding of early presidential elections.

A committee consisting of 5 parties is now drafting the final report on all the joint proposals and it is expected that it will be finalized during today's meeting.

FFS Prepared To Attend Government Meeting

LD1508051291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2200 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] The Socialist Forces [FFS] decided tonight to participate in the political parties' meeting with the government, after having boycotted, I remind you, the last meeting on the first day. This decision was confirmed to Mahdia Salmi by Mr. Hamdani, the official in charge of information at the FFS:

[Begin Hamdani recording] Concerning the political parties' meeting with the government planned for 22 August, the FFS broadcast an answer today saying that it is ready to participate in the second meeting on 22 August 1991, centered on the preparation of the mechanisms to be set up for holding the legislative elections—it being understood that this meeting will take place under the same conditions as the first. The FFS reminds us of the need for adequate media coverage, which will allow the nation as a whole to participate. By participating the FFS is reaffirming its calm determination to take up, pursue, and make widespread the dialogue in a public and political atmosphere. In order to be effective, the talks should avoid all ambiguity in their aims, as well as in procedure. The FFS also emphasizes the importance of dialogue, and will communicate to you its suggestions on this matter. The FFS can only be responsive to the government's efforts in favor of a dialogue that brings together all parties, using representatives duly invested by their standing bodies. It is important that the government should carry out all its duties and assume its responsibilities, especially with regard to suggestions relating to mechanisms to be set up for the holding of legislative elections. On this question, the FFS asks that the points of possible agreement and disagreement be laid out immediately. The success of this meeting depends on the moral weight, prestige, and efficiency of the participants. [end recording]

Regarding the question of who will lead the FFS delegation and the reason for this decision, Mr. Hamdani said that the FFS will deal with these matters probably tomorrow or in the coming days. We will try, tomorrow, to find out more about it.

FIS Provisional Bureau Confirms Leadership

LD1508045991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] The National Consultative Council of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has delivered a statement to the national radio, signed by Abdelkader Hachenni—the official of the Provisional National Executive Bureau.

The statement says, in particular that during the latest meeting of the National Consultative Council, dated 12 August 1991, an agreement was reached to form a Provisional National Executive Bureau charged with administering the affairs of the FIS until its leadership is released. The statement added: Indications point to the unanimity that has been attained over the confirmation of Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj at the head of the FIS.

Libya

Al-Bishari Interviewed on Regional Topics

PM1208101691 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 9 Aug 91 pp 24, 26

[Unattributed interview with Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, in Djibouti; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAWADITH] Why did Libya take part in the Somali reconciliation conference?
[Al-Bishari] Libya took part because of our country's interest in the Somali people's unity, inasmuch as they are a fraternal Muslim Arab people to whom we are bound by strong ties. It is also a member of the Arab League and the OAU. Also in order to emphasize our solidarity with a view to restoring that unity, respecting the the Somali Republic's territorial integrity, and enabling its people to overcome the dangerous predicament that they are experiencing. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Some say that the Libyan Jamahiriyah played a role in North Somalia's separation, since it supported the Somali National Movement.
[Al-Bishari] I consider that untrue. The Jamahiriyah maintains cordial contacts with all Somali groups. We have long-standing relations with them. Some of them received aid and backing from us, but on the basis that they should talk among themselves to resolve the national problem assailing the Somali people. As for the North's separation, I do not know whether it is serious or not. I wonder: Can a new state survive in a troubled region, and with what resources will it be able to live, work for its people's prosperity, or even feed them? [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Will Libya recognize Eritrea when it achieves independence?
[Al-Bishari] Yes, Libya will recognize it immediately if an Eritrean state is proclaimed. And there can be no comparison between what the Somali National movement proclaimed, namely, the so-called "Somaliland Republic," and the anticipated Eritrean state. In Eritrea there are a people and territory that represent one of the oldest political entities in Africa.

[AL-HAWADITH] Does the Moroccan Sahara issue still affect the Arab Maghreb Union plans?
[Al-Bishari] The Saharan problem is on its way to being resolved through all the parties' agreement to conduct a referendum. And we now have an entity called the Arab Maghreb Union. This union has become a major factor in our Arab world, and, God willing, within a few years the entire region will become a single entity, with the same borders; the same customs tariffs; and complete economic unity that will grant Maghreb citizens freedom of movement, residence, and ownership.

And incidentally, integration is currently being effectively implemented with both Egypt and Sudan. Libyan and Egyptian citizens now have the right to residence, employment, ownership, and movement in either of the two countries. There are at present 10 integration agreements between the two countries. There are also other agreements with Sudan. This means that we are tirelessly moving toward unifying the Egyptian, Libyan, and Sudanese entities and linking them to the Arab Maghreb. If the present program proceeds unobstructed, we will find that within a period of time, say 10 years, we have established a great Arab entity in this region.

[AL-HAWADITH] There have been reports of Libyan mediation between Egypt and Sudan. What has been achieved in that regard?
[Al-Bishari] We discussed this subject in detail during our recent visit to Sudan. This, because Egyptian-Sudanese relations concern us very much. There are Egyptian suspicions toward Sudan and there are also Sudanese suspicions toward Egypt, but we believe that what links the two countries is deeper and stronger than what separates them. Their geography is the same and there are common interests. They are bound by the River Nile. Egypt cannot dispense with Sudan, nor can Sudan dispense with Egypt. Between them there are deep-rooted historical, geographical, and racial relations. And I believe that the things that exist now between the two country should not be exaggerated. We discussed these matters during our recent visit to Egypt. I emphasize that matters between the two fraternal states will return to normal soon. There are many positive elements in that direction.

[AL-HAWADITH] What is Libya's position on the Sudanese opposition now? It supported the Al-Mahdi movement in the past. Does it still support it?
[Al-Bishari] Our relations with Sudan are intermingled, since we are the sons of a single people and a single history. We are proceeding on the road to integration, and Egypt with us—I repeat, Egypt with us—and we will achieve that aim, God willing. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Will Libya respond to the elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons from the Middle East or the so-called U.S. President Bush plan?
[Al-Bishari] The matter of eliminating nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction should include all the region's states. Why should the plan apply to one state and exclude another? If we are fair and implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, the plan must be applied to everyone. These weapons are bad and kill people indiscriminately, so the plan should be applied to the Israelis as well. Matters must be weighed on a single fair balance.

[AL-HAWADITH] How do you view the political efforts being made to achieve peace in the Middle East and to resolve the Palestinian issue?
[Al-Bishari] The Israelis do not want peace because they are in a strong position. They have sufficient weapons and have U.S. support, a comfortable situation for them. Israeli threats against the Arabs continue. The most recent of these is the Israeli prime minister's threat of

war against Syria. In my view, the Palestinian issue is becoming more complicated by the day as a result of Israel's intransigence. The Israelis do not want peace and believe that it is not in their interest. [passage omitted]

Morocco

King Hassan II Grants Detainees 'Free Pardon'

LD1508130691 Rabat MAP in English 1202 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 15 (MAP)—King Hassan II of Morocco has decided to grant free pardon to several detainees on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of the retrieval of the Oued Eddahab province in response to a memorandum he was referred for consideration by the National Council of Human Rights, a communique of the Information Department said Wednesday night.

The free pardon, the communique added, was issued after the detainees have recognized that the Sahara is Moroccan subscribing thus to national unanimity on the issue.

The detainees had asked the sovereign to grant them his benevolence and solicitude.

Further on Pardons

LD1408225391 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Information issued the following statement: In response to the petition handed by the Consultative Council on Human Rights to His Majesty King Hassan II after its recent series of meetings, his majesty pardoned those prisoners, who recognized the Moroccanness of the recovered Sahara after they deviated from the national unanimity on that issue,and petitioned his majesty to include them in his generous mercy and confer them with his total favour. This was on the occasion of 14 August, which marks the anniversary of the renewal of the allegiance of the inhabitants of Oued Eddahab to his majesty. [passage omitted]

King Hassan Receives Senegal's Abdou Diouf

LD1608085491 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] At the royal palace in Skhirat last night, His Majesty King Hassan II, with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed at his side, received President Abdou Diouf of the Senegalese Republic, who is paying a private visit to Morocco. The Senegalese president is accompanied on his visit by his foreign minister.

Later, his majesty the king held a dinner banquet in honor of his excellency.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives French Finance Minister

LD1608042191 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Excerpts] President Zine Abidine Ben Ali received Pierre Beregovoy, the French minister of state for economy, finance, and the budget, yesterday afternoon. After the meeting Pierre Beregovoy said that he had held extremely amicable talks with President Ben Ali, which enabled them to discuss all facets of economic and financial cooperation between Tunisia and France. He stressed that cooperation was in excellent shape. [passage omitted]

Pierre Beregovoy said that he urged French institutions to invest in Tunisia or to establish partnerships with Tunisian institutions. He emphasized the encouraging results achieved in that field, represented in the creation of 25 institutions within the scope of a special trust established for that purpose. He noted that these results were only a beginning, and that effort and assiduity had to be intensified in that direction.

The French minister of state briefed President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on France's decision that the French central fund for economic cooperation should contribute in the promotion of small projects in Tunisia, particularly in the field of agriculture. He said that President Francois Mitterrand's recent visit to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was extremely positive, and that the welcome accorded by the Tunisian masses to the French president confirmed that the friendship between Tunisia and France was a living reality, and that it had overcome some of the difficulties which sometimes occur between friends. [passage omitted]

Pierre Beregovoy and Minister of Finance Mohamed Ghannouchi yesterday signed three protocols on financial cooperation between Tunisia and France. The total value of the protocols is 520 million French francs, to be allocated to the financing of industrial and technical projects within the framework of the development plan in Tunisia, the acquisition of material and services from the French market, and the facilitating of the transfer of French property in Tunisia. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Protest Reported Over Qatari Warship Incursion

PM1608100691 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Aug 91 p 1

[Hasan al-Laqis report: "Bahrain Protested to Qatar After Warship Entered Its Waters"]

[Text] Manama—AL-HAYAH has learned from informed sources that the Bahraini Government has submitted an official protest to the Qatari Government because a Qatari warship equipped with missiles violated Bahrain's territorial waters last week.

Gulf military sources, which asked to remain anonymous, said that a warship equipped with French-made Exocet missiles entered the waters surrounding the island of Fasht al-Dibal and that a Bahraini coast guard ship escorted it away.

It is known that issue of the island resurfaced after Doha referred the dispute to the International Court of Justice in The Hague on 8 July. Bahrain rejected Qatar's allegations and is currently preparing a documented legal reply.

Kuwait

Iraqis Fire at Patrol on Kuwaiti Side of DMZ

LD1508133791 London KUNA in Arabic 1320 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Aug (KUNA)—The State of Kuwait today accused the Iraqi regime of violating the cease-fire agreement after an Iraqi patrol opened fire on a Kuwaiti patrol that was on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized zone.

An official source at the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry said that while the Kuwaiti police patrol was carrying out its duties yesterday on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarized area, an Iraqi patrol opened fire on it. The source added that the incident led to material damage but there was no loss of life as a result of this hostile and provocative Iraqi act.

The source added that the competent authorities took the necessary measures and contacted the commander of the UN force which is responsible for maintaining security in this area. It also contacted the United Nations to guarantee the full implementation of the Security Council resolution regarding the ending of the war for the liberation of Kuwait in a manner that will preserve the safety of both countries' borders and guarantee their security and stability and prevent the repetition of such an aggression.

RCC Boosts Military Allowances, Benefits

JN1608090691 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued two decisions designed to raise the standard of living and ensure the proper social status of our valiant Armed Forces personnel.

Decision No. 274 of 14 August 1991 provides for the following increases in the allocations of military officers:

A. The housing allowance is raised by 50 percent of base pay.
B. The commanding officer's allowance is raised to 100 dinars.
C. The assistant commanding officer's allowance is raised to 40 dinars.
D. The clothing allowance is raised to 75 dinars.

Decision No. 275 states :

A. The Real Estate Bank's loan to military officers now becomes 15,000 dinars.
B. The Real Estate Bank's loan to volunteer noncommissioned officers now becomes 8,000 dinars.

These two gifts to our valiant Armed Forces are additional to previous ones ordered by leader President Saddam Husayn. His excellency had earlier ordered an increase in the salaries and allocations of the friends of the president of the republic and the heroes of al-Qadisiyah and the mother of battles. These included martyrs, volunteer and reservist officers, other Armed Forces ranks, soldiers, and employees, whether in active service or not.

His excellency had also ordered warning [as heard] allocations for officers and other ranks to help bring up the purchasing power of our brave fighters and as a way to express deep appreciation for heroic actions.

His excellency had also ordered that fighters with good service records in the Armed Forces be honored with the awarding of special badges that can be displayed in their homes and be documented on their military service cards. Moreover, they will receive a financial reward equivalent to 150 percent of the latest total monthly salary for every year in service over the number determined by law for compulsory and reservist service.

His excellency had also ordered the drafting of a new law on voluntary service for officers and other ranks. This would be based primarily on the principle of contractual service and include substantial increases in salaries, allocations, and fringe benefits. The law will soon apply to volunteers now in active service.

From the end of last year to the beginning of this one, there were three salary increases totaling from 125 dinars up; they included the mother of battles allocations.

Prior to this, volunteers had been given privileges including land for housing, real estate grants and loans, and preference in services, marriage (?grants), university admission, and others.

Defense Minister Thanks Saddam for Army Pay Hike

JN1508143491 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Aug 91

["Text" of cable from Defense Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan to President Saddam Husayn; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, may God protect you and preserve you as an asset and hope for this nation, which has experienced enemy conspiracies and suffered from agents who have been plaguing it—agents who work for others, even though they are deemed sons of the nation.

Your excellency, esteemed leader president: While experiencing our people's jubilation on the great victory day, your excellency bestowed on us a new noble and generous gift that has taken the form of increasing the salaries of your mujahid combatants working in the great Iraqi Army, in whose training your excellency played a great role. Besides, your excellency had a historic and well-known role in leading this army during its battles of honor and dignity against the nation's enemies, and in defense of the nation, and Iraq's unity and security as well.

This noble gesture from the people's leader under these extraordinary circumstances is the embodiment of the attention and personal care the commander in chief of the Armed Forces gives to the living conditions of his sons, and also of his concern for raising their economic status to render them people enjoying a proper social status.

My esteemed leader, we pledge to you, in my name and on behalf of your magnanimous sons in the ranks of this victorious army, that we will remain faithful to the sublime principles and the march whose features you charted and whose foundations you laid—the march you are leading. Furthermore, we vow to epitomize your affection and generous care as ceaseless and creative work to serve this nation and its valiant army, and also to serve its great leader, the forger of heroic feats.

May God grant you success and preserve you as an asset and a hope for the nation. May God's peace be upon you, my esteemed leader.

Peace-Keeping Force Spokesman Praises Cooperation

JN1508154991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—'Abd-al-Latif al-Qabbah, official spokesman for the peace-keeping force between Iraq and Kuwait, praised Iraq's cooperation

which has enabled this force to play its role in the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait.

At a press conference today, which was attended by INA and local newspaper correspondents, he said that the Higher Coordination Committee holds periodic meetings and contacts with Iraqi Foreign Ministry officials to discuss issues of mutual interest. This is in addition to the meetings General Blandug [name as received], one of the senior observation officers, holds during his frequent visits to the region.

He added that the demilitarized zone has been divided into three sectors: north, south, and central. This zone is 240 km long and includes 18 border observation posts, whose task is to observe any violations or any military presence in the zone around the clock.

Defense Minister Receives Mas'ud Barzani

JN1508163891 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan today received Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan.

Karkuk Said 'Besieged' by Republican Guards

NC1508160091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] The despotic regime has concentrated its forces in northern Iraq and has besieged Karkuk with approximately five Republican Guard brigades.

In a statement distributed in London, Kurdistan Front member Burhan Salih said that reports from the region indicate that the despotic regime's forces have arrested many Kurds and have carried out forced evacuations. Salih explained that in the last week the dictatorial regime has sent a large number of reinforcements to northern Iraq to terrorize Kurdish citizens, especially in Karkuk, stressing that the situation is very volatile.

Rebel Radio Reports Antigovernment Operations

NC1508155491 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] The jihad operations of our heroic revolutionaries from the victorious popular forces are continuing. A group of revolutionaries launched a lightning attack on one of the Ba'thist forces' positions in the al-Tannumah area east of al-Basra. A number of mercenaries, including a senior officer, were killed in the attack.

Informed sources added that earlier the revolutionaries attacked one of the Saddamist sectors in the (abu-Sawbat) area in the south, resulting in the death of a number of the Ba'thist mercenaries and the capture of enemy weapons. Following this successful operation, our heroic mujahidin returned safely to base.

Kurdish Party on U.S. Policy, Turkish Incursion

JN1508090391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—The Democratic Party of Kurdistan [al-Hizb al-Dimuqrati al-Kurdistani] has condemned the policy of the United States and its Western allies toward Iraq and the region.

A statement published in AL-'IRAQ newspaper today on the party's 45th anniversary says the imperialist United States and the other colonialist countries are practicing double standards to serve their own selfish interests while falsely and deceitfully claiming concern about human rights. [passage omitted]

The statement refutes American-Western concern about the rights and interests of the Kurdish people, describing it as window dressing and an attempt to hide the oppression, persecution, and organized terrorism perpetrated against Kurds in Turkey and Iran under the pretext of fighting riots and terrorism.

The party strongly attacks the incursion of the Turkish army and planes inside Iraqi territory to annihilate the Kurdish people, who escaped to Iraq because of genocidal practices. The Turkish attack, says the statement, conflicts with international laws and principles, in addition to being a violation of another country's sovereignty. [passage omitted]

The party renewed its national position of defending great Iraq and continuing its march behind leader Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Hammadi Warns of Interference in Domestic Affairs

JN1508141391 Baghdad INA in English 1255 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 15, INA—Mr. Hamid Yusuf Hammadi minister of information and culture has affirmed that the U.S.-led alliance members should respect will of the Iraqis in building their free and independent country without any interference in its internal affairs.

In a meeting today with delegation of the Committee for Defence of the Arab Rights in France, the minister reviewed dimensions of the imperialist-Zionist conspiratorial schemes aimed at undermining Iraq's achievements and scientific progress and development.

The French delegation voiced solidarity and support of the French people with Iraq which is now suffering as a result of the economic blockade threatening with the spread of famine and infectious diseases because of the shortage in medicine and food and other necessary supplies.

Jordanian Labor Minister Continues Visit

Confers With Prime Minister

JN1408122591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Aug (INA)—Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi received here today 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi, Jordanian labor and cabinet affairs minister.

The prime minister praised the honorable pan-Arab stand of fraternal Jordan—king, government, and people—in support of Iraq during its confrontation with the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression.

For his part, 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi paid tribute to Iraqi steadfastness in defending the dignity of the Arab nation and that of its sons. He also praised the proud and magnanimous position Iraq has taken to vindicate its sovereignty.

During the meeting, they affirmed the importance of developing the existing cooperation between the two fraternal countries in all spheres, especially in the field of social care and labor.

The meeting was attended by Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of labor and social affairs; and Hamid Salih al-Rawi, chief secretary at the Council of Ministers.

Opposes French Draft Resolution

JN1408182691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Aug (INA)—'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi, Jordanian labor and cabinet affairs minister, has affirmed that the recent French draft resolution is a flagrant intervention in Iraq's domestic affairs and a clear violation of international legitimacy.

In a statement to INA, he added: The draft resolution currently proposed to the Security Council is aimed at undermining Iraq's sovereignty. This is rejected, just as we reject custodianship over Iraq and interference in its domestic affairs, al-Dughmi said.

The Jordanian minister went on to say: We in Jordan opposed the economic blockade imposed on Iraq—the blockade meant to starve a people with a population of 18 million. We demanded, through international and humanitarian organizations, that the blockade be lifted unconditionally, because Iraq is committed to honoring all international resolutions.

Al-Dughmi urged the Arab masses as well as world popular and humanitarian organizations to put pressure on their governments and regimes to bring about a lifting of the blockade. He added: We have strong hopes that these popular forces will play their humanitarian roles to achieve this objective.

'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi arrived in Baghdad on 11 August on an official visit at the invitation of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN1508115591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi, Jordan's minister of labor and minister of cabinet affairs, left Baghdad today at the end of a four-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, the Jordanian minister held talks with a number of officials. The talks dealt with the exchange of expertise between the two fraternal countries in the field of labor and employment.

BABIL—U.S. To Blame for 'Breakup' in Ties

JN1508123991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—The newspaper BABIL holds the U.S. Administration responsible for the continued breakup of Iraqi- U.S. relations and for keeping these relations in a dark tunnel.

In an article today, the paper says the United States is to blame; it does not conceal its refusal to restore relations with Iraq to their previous status.

The paper stresses that relations between the two countries cannot continue forever as they are now. It denies that it is possible for the U.S. pressures on Iraq to succeed in changing the government in the country or in driving its leader to abandon his responsibilities.

BABIL stresses that movement in this vicious cycle is tiresome and detrimental to all. With regard to the restoration of Iraqi-U.S. relations, the paper explains, we need a political leap to overcome obstacles and hindrances and face objective facts in this respect.

Elaborating on the required steps for the restoration of relations between the two countries, the paper says the most important fact is that the U.S. weight in international politics should not be ignored or underestimated. Likewise, Iraq's weight in the Gulf and the Middle East should not be ignored or underestimated.

The paper discusses the theory of mutual interests that govern international relations in today's world. Common interests, it says, dictate that a spotlight be lit to serve as the beginning of a course that returns Iraqi-U.S. relations to accepted international norms.

BABIL focuses on the role of the White House in the normalization process and says that turning the spotlight into a beam of light is a U.S. task more than an Iraqi one. It is the responsibility of the United States to do this because "it is the party that insists on keeping relations with Iraq in a dark tunnel."

The paper draws the attention of the White House and U.S. foreign policymakers to a number of facts and signals. The most important is that betting on an alternative to President Saddam Husayn is a losing gamble, and waiting to achieve this objective is a waste of time.

The paper stresses that weakening Iraq to a point whereby the regional balance among Iraq, Iran, and Turkey is disturbed will threaten strategic security and harm international interests in the region. An Iraq balanced with the region's states and enjoying a cohesive internal front without President Saddam Husayn is more of an imaginary thing, closer to the impossible.

U.S. Human Rights Delegation Arrives on Visit

JN1408190891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Aug (INA)—A delegation representing the American human rights program arrived in Baghdad today on a visit of several days.

The delegation, which is made up of a number of physicians and businessmen, will acquaint itself with the effects of the economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people as well as the effects of the 30-state aggression.

In a statement to INA, the delegation expressed grave concern for the suffering of Iraqi children caused by the shortage of food and the spread of infectious diseases as a result of the economic blockade.

Meets Trade Minister

JN1508190591 Baghdad INA in English 1750 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 15, INA—Iraqi Minister of Trade Muhammad Mahdi Salih met today a delegation of the American human rights programmes currently visiting Iraq.

The minister explained to the delegation the mechanism of distribution of essential foodstuffs on the citizens according to the rationing card, pointing that all Arabs and foreigners including diplomatic corps were being included in the system and were supplied with food supplies in rations equal to those of the Iraqis.

The minister confirmed to the delegation that continuity of the economic blockade on Iraq and starving its people and depriving them of food and medicine was in contradiction with [word indistinct] laws and norms of human rights.

Saudi Involvement in U.S. Survey Protested

JN1508054691 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Iraq has protested to the Arab League that a U.S. plane originating from Saudi Arabia has violated Iraqi airspace to fulfill suspect objectives. The protest came in a memorandum from the Foreign Ministry to the Arab League General Secretariat. It explains that a U.S. plane coming from Saudi territory entered Iraqi airspace at 1200 on 12 August 1991 and returned to the same territory at 1515.

The memorandum stresses that the incident indicates that Saudi territory and airspace have become a spearhead for aggression against Iraq—something that violates the Arab League Charter and other conventions.

Iraq asked that the memorandum also be conveyed to the Saudi mission at the League. Insistence on harming Iraq after all pretexts have fallen, says the memorandum, means only that the holy land has become a base for foreign forces. If Iraq is the target today, others may be the target in the future.

UN Informed of Violations by U.S. Aircraft

JN1408093291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] New York, 14 Aug (INA)—U.S. aircraft have again violated Iraq's airspace for surveillance and provocation purposes.

In a memorandum to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said that U.S. air activity in Iraqi airspace on 11 and 12 August totaled 24 air sorties divided into 10 two-plane formations and four single sorties.

He noted that the U.S. aircraft centered their activity over Mosul, Irbil, Dahuk, Tall 'Afar, al-'Amadiyah, and Rawandoz at a speed of 600 to 900 km per hour and at altitudes between 500 meters and 6 km.

UN Silence on Turkish 'Genocide' Condemned

JN1508153691 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 15, INA—AL-'IRAQ daily for today said the people of Iraq had the right to be proud that their dignity and will, which defeated the aggression, could also break the blockade imposed by the aggressors.

The daily added that the coming generations, history and humanity would not forgive the shameful stances adopted by all those pretending to defend human rights, in the forefront of which the U.S. Administration, Britain, France and those who kept silent.

It described the international organization's silence, after it had given up all its powers to the United States and stood helpless towards the acts of blackmail practised by Western states, as a humiliating stance that deserved all the condemnation.

The daily wondered why the United Nations preferred to keep silent towards the organized crime being committed by the permanent members of the Security Council against 18 million Iraqis in contravention of the U.N. Charter and principles of international law and

towards the daily acts of genocide practised by the Turkish Government against the Kurds, which constituted a blatant violation of human rights.

AL-'IRAQ warned that an entire nation was facing the threat of starvation and a nationality was being wiped out at the hands of a killer regime.

It made it clear that all these crimes were perpetrated while the international organization was engaged in futile discussions on the partial lifting of sanctions, inspection teams or other justifications meant to obstruct any serious and decisive resolution calling for the immediate lifting of sanctions.

Turkish Minister's Remarks on Buffer Zone Viewed

JN1308184491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1709 GMT 13 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Aug (INA)—The INA political commentator has affirmed that Turkish Defense Minister Barlas Dogu's statements on the establishment of a buffer zone along the Turkish border constitutes an encroachment on the interests of the peoples of the region and Iraq in particular, and ignores the interests of the Turkish people.

In a statement to ANATOLIA AGENCY yesterday, Dogu said that the establishment of the zone depends on the decision of the Turkish Government on Wednesday.

The commentator said that the defense minister is trying to borrow the muscles of the NATO forces which used Turkish territory as a springboard for aggression against Iraq and to threaten its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the security of its people.

The INA political commentator ridiculed the Turkish defense minister's allegations, and said that the minister is trying to make others imagine that deciding matters depends on the will of the Ankara government, without the least consideration of other states' national sovereignty and rights, international law, the rights of being a neighbor, and the common religion and history between Iraq and Turkey.

He stressed that an immediate Turkish withdrawal from northern Iraq, avoiding any act which would constitute a violation of Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, or interference in Iraq's internal affairs, is the sound approach in keeping with the principles of neighborly relations.

He said such an action can only be considered as against the interests of the peoples of the region and Iraq, and an action that does not take into consideration the Turkish people's interests, affiliation with the region, and their close historical and religious relations with the peoples of the region and Iraq.

The commentator emphasized all peoples' need for mutual interests and respect for each other's options. He said the Turkish people's interests lie in respecting Iraq's rights, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; noninterference in its domestic affairs; and not being dragged behind suspect foreign schemes.

Referring to the Turkish defense minister's allegation that a number of Turkish Kurds wounded in clashes with Turkish forces will be transferred to southern Iraq, the commentator described this as nonsense and an exposed fabrication through which the Turkish minister is trying to set up a smokescreen behind which he is hiding bad intentions. Such allegations are a reiteration of the feeble pretexts that official Turkish sources launch to justify their flagrant violations of Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the security and stability of the Iraqi people.

Hostage Negotiations in Geneva Continue

Waiting for 'Other Side'

TA1508171991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] The three members of the Israeli delegation who met yesterday in Geneva with the UN secretary general will leave tonight for Israel. The three men will now wait for new information that the secretary general may receive regarding Israel's fundamental demand to get a reliable picture on the state of its POW's and MIA's. At the end of the Israeli delegation's second trip to Geneva in five days, Yo'av Tocker, our correspondent there, reports:

The 30 hours the Israeli delegation spent in Geneva again marked a rise in the level of international anxiety regarding the hostages and the prisoners. But the newly felt tension, the Israeli representatives said toward evening, will eventually prove to be beneficial. The heady expectations, which were sometimes purposely inflated and which led to the circulation of unfounded rumors over the past week, had no basis in fact from the very beginning. What was already obvious in Israel, that any unilateral releases of Shiite detainees by Israel before it received any reliable information on the fate of its POW's and MIA's was extremely unlikely, was now much clearer to the UN secretary general, to the diplomats involved in the process, to world public opinion, and also to what is known as the other side, the people holding the hostages and prisoners; or in other words, both directly and indirectly, Tehran and the Shiite organizations: the Islamic Jihad and Hizballah.

The mediatory mechanism, with Javier Perez de Cuellar at its head, is now waiting for the other side's reaction. The Israeli delegation and the secretary general established what were termed new communication channels that would enable the process to be continued step by step and as quietly as possible, far from the turbulent emotions and expectations accompanying the media headlines. Our representatives hope that this approach will allow the process both to be promoted with greater efficiency and also furnish greater insulation against the pressures that have already been exerted on Israel and that will doubtless also be employed in the future.

Lubrani on Talks With UN Chief

TA1608050291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by Me'ir Einstein on 16 August—recorded]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Mr. Lubrani.

[Lubrani] And a very good morning to you.

[Einstein] Now, following your meeting with the UN secretary general, are you optimistic that a deal may be in the works?

[Lubrani] We have begun a process; I think that an important step has been taken. We must be optimistic.

[Einstein] Did you receive any new information during the meeting?

[Lubrani] No. We have still not received any new information. We were not expecting any new information. We—my colleagues and I—informed the secretary general of the Israeli Government's position and clarified our principles to him. I believe that we return with good reason to assume that he understood and accepted the Israeli Government's position and is now acting in accordance with it.

[Einstein] In other words, in order to move the process forward, we are now waiting for answers regarding the fate of our POW's and MIA's. Is that right?

[Lubrani] That is correct. We are waiting for answers and for some action. We do not think it will happen overnight. One must not believe that something that failed to occur for so many years will happen suddenly. We do hope, however, that now that things are being handled at such a high level, this complex, painful, and urgent issue has a chance of receiving professional treatment.

[Einstein] Mr. Lubrani, in your meeting with the secretary general, did you make any declarations to the effect that Israel will be willing to release prisoners held in Israeli prisons immediately after we receive information—and only information—regarding the fate of our POW's and MIA's?

[Lubrani] We said that we must first get information about our POW's and MIA's. That is the first and inevitable stage of any activity on this matter. We said that after we get the information, Israel will do all it can to help the secretary general, with Israel being willing to make some gestures, among other things. But first of all and before anything else, we must know what happened to our POW's and MIA's.

[Einstein] Uri Lubrani, when do you estimate that the deal will take place?

[Lubrani] I do not know. It is very difficult to know, and I think it would be irresponsible on my part to try to set any time frames. We hope it will happen as soon as possible. We must not rush the UN secretary general. He will fulfill his task in his own way, and I only hope he understands just how much urgency and importance Israel attaches to this issue.

[Einstein] Thank you, Uri Lubrani.

Levi Receives Message From Bessmertnykh

TA1608102891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi received a message from Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh at the end of the week. The message came in the wake of the agreements reached during Bessmertnykh's visit to Jerusalem for an exchange of views between Moscow and Jerusalem on the political situation.

The Soviet foreign minister wished to share with his Israeli counterpart the ideas that have been brought up in the wake of the Bush-Gorbachev summit meeting in Moscow. Bessmertnykh said it will be recalled that during the Moscow talks, it was concluded that there is a need to convene a regional peace conference in October. He said the USSR supports the proposal for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the process in general. He wants Minister Levi to know that the USSR will do everything possible to advance direct negotiations, for which Israel has worked so hard.

In his message, Bessmertnykh also said that the USSR hopes that all the procedural problems will now be resolved in order to permit the conference to convene, and that he is interested in maintaining ongoing contacts with Minister Levi and in keeping in touch on any progress in the peace process. That is the contents of the letter.

We note that the letter says nothing about the date for renewing full diplomatic relations between Israel and the USSR, but Jerusalem says that this will nevertheless happen prior to the conference in October.

Shamir Repeats Desire for Beginning of Talks

TA1608105191 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 15 Aug 91

[Communication by the prime minister's media adviser on a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman held on 15 August]

[Text] Senator Joseph Lieberman (D.-Conn.) expressed to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir the appreciation of the U.S. Congress and of the American public, for the Israeli government's decision to participate in a conference in October prior to the opening of direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries. Senator Lieberman said that this decision will strengthen Israel's position among the American public and will make many Israel-related decisions—such as the $10 billion loan guarantee—easier to make.

Shamir said that he is happy to hear positive echoes from the U.S. to the Israeli government's decision which was made only due to its yearning for peace. "We have no illusions as to the difficulties that are still piled up on our path to peace, but it is important that the October conference take place because it is important that the process be started. The U.S. administration invested a lot of effort in order to bring about this conference and we have no doubt that it will continue to do all that it can so that the October conference will indeed take place and negotiations will begin."

Shamir noted that it is important to resolve not only the conflicts between Israel and the Arab countries, but also other more important problems which do not merit enough attention—such as the severe water shortage which threatens the economy of the entire region—and which cannot be resolved without the cooperation of all the countries of the region. The October conference, Shamir said, will also include a regional forum to deal with all these problems and their resolution will lead the entire region to progress and development.

Limits of Shamir's Trust in Baker Analyzed

TA1508110691 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Aug 91 p 7

[Article by Avner Regev: "The Pendulum of Trust and Suspicion"]

[Text] Skepticism mixed with suspicion, coupled with an attempt to be realistic—this is the current atmosphere in the prime minister's bureau in Jerusalem, in the wake of Baker's departure with Shamir's "yes." There is no sense of an impending historic moment, nor is there the sense of elation appropriate on the eve of possible talks with the Arab countries. Furthermore, sources in the bureau state that, so far, the talks with the U.S. officials have yielded no actual progress that would justify a better mood as October approaches.

Sources in the prime minister's bureau take care to state repeatedly that, at the present stage, at stake is an opening regional encounter to be followed by a series of discussions held in the form of direct negotiations between the countries. Tempers tend to be short each time the word "international conference" is mentioned; the impression is that any such reference is believed to be capable of foiling the future political moves.

In talks, sources close to Shamir take care to point out that the degree of trust between the prime minister and the secretary of state is of a limited nature. Some of them recall that Shamir allowed the unity government to collapse 18 months ago mainly because of a hunch that Baker was not about to keep the promises he had given Israel regarding the noninclusion of deportees and East Jerusalem delegates. Today, they feel, we are approaching a similar situation, with the U.S. officials hinting that the finalizing of a letter of assurances to Israel may be difficult, despite Baker's consent. Jerusalem feels that an attempt is being made to evade promises given in tete-a-tetes between Baker and Shamir and to refrain from putting them in writing. Thus, the pendulum of trust is swinging again.

In conversations with his confidants, Shamir says that Baker consented to put the agreements in writing and that there is no need for any additional negotiations. Why does he have to return to the region in September? Why does he leave officials behind and send others over to discuss things already agreed on in talks?

Shamir's confidants contend that this cloud hanging over the government campus in Jerusalem is liable to bring about a situation in which Israel will stay away from the conference if the terms for its participation are not finalized in advance.

It should be noted that the current discussions are not about the list of names of Palestinian delegation members. They are about principles and their implementation, such as the wording of the invitations, the location of the meeting, the need to achieve a binding contractual peace, and the explicit undertaking that the purpose of the discussions does not imply an endorsement of the establishment of a Palestinian state in the territories. Israel's absence from the conference could also be brought about by a government crisis that would move the elections up; a decision to this effect may be made in October. "Problems with the water commissioner today [over whose tenure Tzomet threatened to quit the government], the police commissioner tomorrow, and the British high commissioner the day after" are circumstances that, according to personnel in Shamir's bureau, could bring about early elections—without any connection to the regional conference.

The cloud that is darkening the skies above the government campus in Jerusalem is also the reason behind decisionmakers' nonchalant statements that October is not a sacred date and that the date can be changed. The consent Shamir gave Baker was conditional; if no appropriate solution for the composition of the Palestinian delegation is found, Jerusalem will not hesitate to accuse the U.S. Administration of reneging on agreements, and then Israel will definitely be capable of staying away from the encounter. In his talks with Baker, Shamir stated that compromise is possible on every issue to be raised, with the exception of the Palestinian issue.

The prime minister implied that if the sides overcome "procedural" problems, there will certainly be room for talk on substance. For instance, in the unofficial talks, the possibility was raised of including one Khalid al-Fahum, a Palestinian residing in Damascus and a former Palestine National Council chairman who had a falling out with 'Arafat and is no longer connected to the PLO, in one of the Arab delegations (the Jordanian or the Syrian). If necessary, he will register as a Palestinian. The possibility did not scare Jerusalem; it was not rejected outright, although it was not embraced at once. In the same way, the option of beginning the process of autonomy in Gaza is currently being discussed in confidential talks. Senior Jerusalem officials believe that if Israel meets the United States halfway, the latter will be forced to reciprocate by providing support and assurances, although Washington officials may try to pose difficulties in this regard.

Baker is interested in achieving a success that will parallel that of Secretary of Defense Cheney in Iraq. He needs it for domestic reasons, and he does not intend to give up easily. The idea of "Gaza first," together with the consent to include a Palestinian representative who is neither PLO, nor from outside the territories, nor a deportee, nor a resident of East Jerusalem may aid Baker and ease the pressure on Israel.

The encounter is scheduled to take place in about two months, during which time ups and downs, consent and evasion, can be expected. All these, however, are agelong characteristics of negotiations. It is hard to imagine that dozens of years of hostility can be ended in a few talks and understandings. A lot of patience and forbearance will be required if a happy ending is to be achieved. More than anything else, the sides will have to shed the attitude of mistrust with which they receive every idea and proposal. Each of the parties to the process has its own interests: Israel worries about security; Syria believes that its new stance will open the American coffers; the Palestinians are afraid of being backed into a corner; and the United States seeks a political achievement in the Middle East that will enable President Bush to run for office on the laurels of military and political victories and give Baker a push toward a presidential nomination in 1996.

The political move is bound to glide over into 1992—election year in Israel and the United States. A successful peace process may result in quiet and predictable elections. Its failure will result in a tricky election year, both in Israel and the United States, and in untold upheavals.

U.S. Lag on Arms Export Permits Causes Concern

TA1608090591 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Aug 91 pp 1, 4

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] In recent weeks, the U.S. Administration has adopted a tougher policy, which has far-reaching repercussions, on allowing Israel to export defense products to foreign countries, senior sources have told 'AL HAMISHMAR.

The new U.S. policy of holding back permission to export Israeli defense products that include U.S.-made parts and components is arousing a great deal of concern in Israel's defense establishment. The defense establishment is coordinating with other government ministries to lift the restrictions and eliminate the delays. The issue was discussed with an aide to Senator Daniel Inouye, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Senator Inouye himself, considered a good friend of Israel, is due to visit Israel soon and hold talks with the defense establishment. The defense minister plans to raise the

gravity of the issue with him. Inouye was supposed to come to Israel this week, but postponed his visit due to illness.

Senior sources in the defense establishment said that if the tough U.S. policy continues, it is likely to have serious consequences for Israel's defense industries. The sources explained that the administration is withholding its permission to export products, especially weapons systems, technology, and heavy weapons. The sources said that the process, which had been quick and efficient, has become complex and reminiscent of the era of "reassessment" (during the Kissinger period). More attention is being paid to detail and each export deal is being questioned. Senior sources believe that the new policy is mainly the result of President Bush's initiative to prevent arms sales in the world, especially the sale of missiles, advanced technologies, and strategic weapons systems. Another reason is the administration's wish to strengthen the U.S. military industries, which are pressuring the administration and Congress to restrict arms exports from Europe and Israel.

The defense establishment, the Industry and Trade Ministry, and the Foreign Ministry are trying to convince the Americans to end the delays out of fear that they could seriously impair the defense industries and lead to layoffs.

Minister Backs Conditional Territorial Compromise

TA1508161491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz said during a lecture in France that he would support returning certain territories under certain conditions in return for real peace. Rabbi Peretz added, however, that this statement did not apply to either Jerusalem or the Golan Heights and that these territories should never be given up.

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh adds that when addressing the issue of the POW's and MIA's, Peretz said that every action should be based on reciprocity.

Egypt Upgrades Level of Meetings for Likud Group

TA1608085891 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Aug 91 p 18

[Report by Michal Yudelman]

[Text] The Egyptians have upgraded the level of meetings for the members of the Likud delegation, due to leave for Cairo next week. Talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Yusuf Wali, as well as other ruling party members and senior state officials, have been scheduled, THE JERUSALEM POST learned yesterday.

The delegation consists of eight Likud Young Guard members, headed by party spokesman Gil Samsonov.

The meetings, set up at the last moment, turn the visit from what was mainly a sightseeing tour into "a trip of political significance," Foreign Minister David Levi reportedly told a closed briefing with the members of the delegation, the first official Likud group ever to visit Cairo.

Samsonov told THE POST that the upgrading indicates the Egyptians' increased awareness that "they must talk peace with the Likud."

Earlier this week, the delegation had doubts about making the trip altogether, due to the low level of scheduled meetings which made the visit "look like a tourist trip."

Levi gave Samsonov a message of peace and friendship for the Egyptian people, noting that "this visit is a significant brick in the bridge between Israel and the Arabs."

Levi said that no international power or Arab nation had given the Egyptians "such opportunities in the political process as Israel had, and even now the Palestinians are continuing to be the losers in any process in the Middle East, due to their radical approach."

Greek Envoy on Mitsotakis Visit, Military Ties

TA1608101891 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Aug 91 p 3

[Text] Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis is to come to Israel soon, after having recently been invited by Foreign Minister David Levi.

The invitation was issued to Mitsotakis during a visit here by the Greek foreign minister, and work is currently underway to work out the details of the Greek prime minister's trip, according to Spyros Lambradis, the First Secretary in the Greek embassy in Israel.

Lambradis, who participated in a reception held here by Mayor Arye Gur'el for the commanders of the visiting Greek warship Aris, said the ship's visit signalled the beginning of military cooperation between the two countries. "We see this visit as important not only from a military standpoint, but also in political terms. Cooperation will now be in all spheres, as a result of a decision made in a meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries that took place in Jerusalem," Lambradis said.

Lambradis said the decision on military cooperation had also been made at the meeting, and would mean increasing visits by Greek navy vessels to the port of Haifa.

Official Meets Fatah Activist al-Jara'i

TA1208090091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Aug 91 p A1

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent and correspondent in the territories Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories, last week held a meeting with Radi al-Jara'i, one of the senior Fatah activists in the West Bank. The two discussed the political process, particularly the problem of the Palestinian representation to the peace conference. The meeting was held at Civil Administration offices in Bet El and was attended by other officers, including Colonel Shmu'el Segev, Arab affairs adviser at the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration.

Al-Jara'i, 40, a resident of the village of Surda, is an editor of the East Jerusalem newspaper AL-FAJR. He was released from Israeli detention in the Jibril deal and is considered one of the most senior Fatah activists in the West Bank. He was released from prison on 24 January 1991, after having served two years following a conviction for affiliation with the Unified National Command of the Uprising. Al-Jara'i was detained in 1989 together with other members of the Unified Command: Hasan 'Abd-Rabbuh, Sam'an Khuri, Hamzi al-Samadi, 'Izzat al-'Azzawi, and 'Adnan Shalaldah.

He started working for AL-FAJR soon after his release and was recently mentioned as one of the leading candidates to head the Palestinian Journalists Association upon the retirement of Radwan Abu-'Ayyash. Al-Jara'i learned Hebrew while in prison, and this is the language he used in his conversation with Maj. Gen. Rothschild.

Al-Jara'i said that the conversation with the coordinator of government activities in the territories dealt with the political issue and that Rothschild focused on the question of whether the Palestinians would agree to there being no representative from East Jerusalem on their delegation to the peace conference. "I told him: No Palestinian can forsake Jerusalem. The noninclusion of a representative from East Jerusalem could be interpreted to mean that the Palestinians have given it up," he said.

Al-Jara'i also told Maj. Gen. Rothschild that Israel has various means to ease the pressure on the residents of the territories, such as collecting less in taxes and lifting restrictions on overseas travel and on export and import licenses. [passage omitted]

Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Hannan 'Ashrawi, and Dr. Zakariyyah al-Agha, who recently met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and who are identified with Fatah, have started a series of intensive contacts in order to include Palestinian notables belonging to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and the Communist Party in the process. These moves aim at forming what they call "a broad basis of national unity for the negotiations with the Americans."

Palestinian activists believe that Communist Party members will be the first to join the Fatah activists, because this party is considered the most moderate faction of the PLO.

The Palestinian notables' efforts are concentrated now on attempts to persuade West Bank PFLP activists to take part in the process or, at least, not to obstruct it. Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, a PFLP activist, yesterday called for the formulation of a document of principles for the Palestinians in the territories and the PLO abroad. The document would comprise the Palestinian "red lines" concerning the peace process and would summarize those principles on which there could be no backtracking.

Jerusalem Riots Mark Escalation of Intifadah

TA1208110591 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Aug 91 p A7

[By Hanan Schlein]

[Excerpt] The riots and demonstrations staged Saturday in Jerusalem are a preliminary stage in the escalation of the intifadah and a shift to the use of firearms. They are part of our struggle to make sure that the future of Jerusalem will be discussed in the upcoming peace conference. These remarks were made yesterday by Palestinian notables.

"We will not go to a regional conference," "Baker go home!" read the signs the East Jerusalem demonstrators carried before they were dispersed by the police.

Graffiti on a wall near the Church of the Nativity in the Old City of Jerusalem reads: "There is no other way but the armed struggle to free Palestine; the battalion of the martyr Nidal al-Rabdi, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine."

One of the local residents, affiliated with the DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine], yesterday explained that this graffiti means the use of firearms. Last week the DFLP disseminated a leaflet in which it attacks the notion of the peace conference and calls for the escalation of the intifadah.

The riots on Saturday broke out in two central locations in East Jerusalem: Damascus Gate and Salah al-Din Street. "There was full cooperation between these two locations," the activist said. [passage omitted]

Irregularities in Deportation of Wives, Children

TA1608085791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Aug 91 p 18

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Text] At least 20 women married to Palestinians have recently been ordered to leave the administered areas with their children, despite a declared policy of the state attorney's office for non-resident wives and children to be spared deportation, the Israeli human rights organization, Betzelem, alleged yesterday.

The Defense Ministry said in response that irregularities would be investigated.

The policy was declared to the High Court of Justice in June 1990 after the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) petitioned the Court on the legality of state policy on family reunification.

The court accepted the declaration, the petition was dropped and 250 deported women were allowed to return.

But two months ago, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] legal authorities told ACRI the policy change was limited to cases which preceded the policy declaration. It would not apply to later cases—but "deportations would be frozen for the moment."

At that time no new deportations had been registered, according to al-Haq, a Palestinian human rights group. Betzelem says the situation has now changed.

"This is not a matter of isolated incidents, but rather a policy of deporting from the territories everyone who has not renewed his or her visitor's license," said a Betzelem report issued at a press conference yesterday.

The Defense Ministry responded to the Betzelem charges last night by saying: "If there are irregularities in the procedures, they will be immediately investigated in order to ensure (instructions) are carried out.

"Likewise, additional instructions have been given to ensure that such irregularities do not recur," the ministry said in a statement to the media.

The statement explained that the "instructions" it referred to were those issued to the civil administration and the Ministry of Justice. These, it said, were "in accordance with the declaration issued by the High Court of Justice."

Source on Participation in Talks Without PLO

JN1508174991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordan plans to participate in the Middle East peace conference even if the PLO declines to participate, a responsible source told our radio.

The source added that Jordan is a sovereign country, and that it is not organically ['udwiyan] linked to anyone. Based on this, Jordan will participate in the conference to discuss the Jordanian dimension of the dispute if no agreement is made on a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

The source said that we should be realistic, adding that if Jordan does not participate in the conference, it would have very serious repercussions on the Kingdom, given that the immigration of Jews and the settlement policy in the occupied territories is continuing, and that this could lead to the deportation of Palestinians to Jordan.

Furthermore, the source said that sitting at the negotiating table does not mean surrender. In fact, it constitutes a confrontation with Israel. The source asserted that Jordan will go to the conference to defend Arab and Palestinian rights.

The source stressed that Jordan will never substitute for the Palestinians, and that Jordan wants the Palestinians to represent themselves so as to address the Palestinian dimension of the dispute with Israel.

It is worth mentioning that King Husayn has recently offered a Jordanian umbrella for Palestinian representation, in the context of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, whereby the Jordanian side would only handle the Jordanian dimension of the dispute.

The PLO has thus far not responded to the Jordanian proposal. A responsible Palestinian source has asserted that the response will come after the PLO receives the U.S. answer to the written guarantees that the PLO demanded with regard to the conference.

PLO Decision Awaited

JN1608060891 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Aug 91 pp 1, 16

[By Wafa' 'Amr in Amman]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur stressed yesterday that Jordan refuses to go alone [munfaridan] to the proposed peace conference. Jordan has neither said nor acted in a manner suggesting otherwise, he said.

Dr. al-Nusur reaffirmed Jordan's firm call for a peace-for-land formula based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He said Jordan will not speak for the Palestinians, and the PLO is the party entitled to name its delegation. "We will not interfere in the matter of the names of the Palestinian delegation members. This is strictly a Palestinian issue. Thus far, we have not received the PLO's answer on the joint delegation," he said. [passage omitted]

A responsible Jordanian source told AL-DUSTUR that His Majesty King Husayn has officially called on Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to define the PLO's position on the peace process and the joint delegation. The king's message calls for coordination of positions before the convening of the proposed conference in October. [passage omitted]

Concerning a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, officials from both sides have stressed that coordination between Jordan and the PLO on this issue is being conducted at the highest levels. Even if Jordan goes to a peace conference not attended by the PLO, the officials have said, it will not speak in the name of the Palestinians.

Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur stressed that Jordan has not decided to go to the conference without the PLO. Jordan is waiting for the PLO to announce its position, he said.

King Plans Syria Visit for Peace Process Talks

JN1508191291 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn encouraged international efforts to help bring a halt to human rights violations in the region. In statements to REUTER, his majesty called for international assistance to help Jordan absorb more than 300,000 Jordanians forced out of Kuwait after the Gulf war. He criticized the treatment handed out to Jordanians and Palestinians who are still streaming out of Kuwait, having lost their jobs and their children's right to enroll in government schools.

The Arabs, his majesty noted, resented Israeli mistreatment of Palestinians. His majesty added that he is shocked and concerned about this. He is deeply concered about the continued suffering of the Iraqi people after the war.

Meanwhile, his majesty expressed his belief that the Palestinian brothers will manage to form a delegation to attend the proposed peace conference. He added he might visit Syria within the next few days, subject to circumstances, to discuss the conference.

King's Unpublished Letter to Saddam Reported

JN1508080891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15-16 Aug 91 p 7

["Unpublished" letter sent by King Husayn to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on 22 September 1990, contained within the Jordanian Government's "White Paper" explaining Jordan's position on the Gulf crisis]

[Text] Your Excellency, our brother, President Saddam Husayn of Iraq, may God protect you.

I have just returned from the Rabat meeting to which His Majesty King Hassan II invited me, as he also invited His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid. The subject of the meeting was the Gulf crisis which has become the crisis of the Arab Nation since its beginning on Aug. 2 when Iraq's troops occupied Kuwait. With this event started a dangerous slide towards the unknown, increasing in intensity with every day and hour as we see that what our nation accomplished through its struggle since the beginning of this century is threatened with extinction or destruction. This is happening after the end of the cold war period and at a time when the world is witnessing the birth of a new era and when the international game is being governed by laws and rules different from those we have been familiar with so far.

With the beginnings of a period of hope and promise came the Gulf crisis which revolves around oil, which all nations need and which constitutes, more than at any previous time, the most important base of a new era in which nations aspire to live in a world where peace and cooperation prevail.

Our Arab area has become of the utmost importance for this world, not only because of its location and size and the volume of its market, but also for its vast oil reserves which are estimated to represent two thirds of the world's oil reserves or more.

The large industrial powers saw in the Gulf crisis a golden opportunity to reorganise the area according to designs in harmony with their ambitions and interests, at the expense of the aspirations and interests of the Arab peoples, and to put in place a new international order.

The dangers that these developments present do not elude you. Whatever our reservations about the way the Arab order functioned until Aug. 2, 1990 they do not justify sacrificing the achievements of our nation. In particular they do not justify sacrificing the achievements of Iraq under your leadership which have become the source of Arab pride.

This is not only my opinion but that of His Majesty King Hassan II and President Chadli Bendjedid and certainly the view of the Arab masses. This is why we feel genuine anxiety for Iraq and its ledership, and feel the necessity for protecting and preserving them. It is our right to express our opinion of what is going on because a disaster—if it should befall Iraq, God forbid—will affect us all.

Based on his understanding and assessment which I share with His Majesty King Hassan II and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, and our true concern for the preservation of Iraq and what it represents—I have been asked by President Benjedid and His Majesty King Hassan to pose the following question to Your Excellency as a start of a sincere, collective Arab effort in the hope of a quick response. What are the specific, reasonable and acceptable demands of Iraq from Kuwait as far as its borders with Kuwait and its need for access to the deep waters of the Gulf are concerned; or with respect to the debts and financial compensation for the Rumaylah oil, or other demands if they should exist? In other words: what are the Iraqi demands in their final reasonable and realistic form from the state of Kuwait which may gain the acceptance of the Arab leaders with whom I met before my last visit to you, so that, along with His Majesty King Hassan II and President Bendjedid, we will try to persuade the concerned party and other Arab leaders, and arrive at an Arab solution of the problem before it is too late and before the opportunity (and this is my worst fear) is lost, and the situation deteriorates into a destructive military confrontation which will bring disaster not only to Iraq, but also to the entire Arab Nation.

Certainly Your Excellency knows that we are committed to the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, not only because this is an internationally accepted principle, but also because of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories. Failure to apply this principle—especially in our area—will constitute a dangerous precedent of which Israel will take advantage, with all that that implies in terms of threats to the security and existence of Jordan and to our national security in general. As you know there is an Arab consensus on adherence to this principle making the acquisition of territory by force unacceptable, especially if it should lead to the elimination of a state which is a member of the Arab League and the United Nations. It surely cannot elude Your Excellency that this situation (the occupation of Kuwait) is the first of its kind in the context of the new circumstances prevailing in the world. This is impossible for anyone to accept, and to be silent about it would be a precedent that might encourage others in other regions of the world to follow. This, in turn, will lead to the eruption of conflicts and instability in many regions, at a time when the world is moving towards resolving, not exploding, conflicts. This explains the wide agreement and support of the international community for the stand of the United States which we know had hidden objectives, other than its stated goal of achieving the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government.

It is important that Your Excellency should know that the majority of the Arab peoples rightfully fear for Iraq with its scientific, human, military and material capabilities. This fear for Iraq has reached a point where many believe that a trap has been set up for Iraq, a trap in which it fell, creating the opportunity awaited by the enemies of the nation to strike and destroy Iraq under the guise of helping Kuwait, and in the name of international legitimacy. In fact they are trying to eliminate Iraq, and destroy the hopes of our Arab Nation for what it represents, and destroy our nation's confidence in itself.

I personally realised this from the beginning, and based on this knowledge I made strenuous efforts within my capacity to reach an Arab solution in order to thwart the designs against Iraq and the Arab Nation. Obstacles were put and are still being put in my way. Matters have

deteriorated at a rapid pace and the area has reached the threshold of explosion. In reality, I do not see that there is much time ahead of us to avoid disaster.

The war, if it should start, will be won in the end by one part or another, but the real losers will be us, the Arab... we who believe in the right of our nation to life whether we are in Iraq or in any other part of our wide Arab homeland.

If, however, with the help of God, the war is successfully avoided, and we are able to reach an Arab solution, then Iraq will have achieved much despite the pain and the losses which have accompanied the crisis. Iraq will have succeeded in preserving the achievements of its people and nation; it will have solved its problem with Iran; it will have successfully drawn attention to the gap between the wealthy Arabs and the poor ones, and established this issue as a national one in the consciousness of the Arab peoples, and gained support and understanding for this even in the international arena; it will have attained its legitimate demands which were a source of contention with Kuwait; it will have succeeded in embarrassing the world which has neglected the Palestine issue, and forcing it to fulfill its responsibility to implement international resolutions as it did in Kuwait; and Iraq will have destroyed for our enemies the opportunity of exploiting divisions with the Arab nations.

We are now on the threshold of a new Arab era in which things will never be as they were before if we reach a peaceful solution within an Arab framework. Will you help us all in protecting these achievements? I believe it is within our capacity to protect them, and to build on them if we should achieve this peaceful solution, acceptable to all concerned Arab parties; a solution in which the will of Kuwaitis is respected so that they freely decide what they want; a solution which confirms our and Iraq's consistency in confirming the principle of the inadmissibility of using Arab force against Arabs, and that every Arab state, however small in size, is equal to even the largest Arab state in its rights; a solution which shows that the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait was only an act of self-defence, not an expansionist action, or an intention to impose hegemony; a solution which rectifies what happened, contains the crisis, paves the way for its resolution, and restores confidence between the brotherly Arab regimes.

This crisis has revealed many things, the bitterest of which was that my country and I became the victims of cheap intrigues carried out by our brothers. The heroes of these intrigues were some of our Arab brethren in whom and for whom we had confidence and respect, and with whom some from outside the area collaborated, which explains to us much of the hostility towards us. Those people spread rumours that the Jordanian, Iraqi and Yemeni leadership were conspiring against other Arab countries, their leadership and resources.

The people of Jordan, along with your brethren in Yemen, have suffered harm, no less in magnitude and intensity than what has befallen beloved Iraq. Will you not respond positively and do what is in your interest and for your good as it is in the interest and for the benefit of Iraq and its people whom you have united and led and who have readily made great sacrifices and offered their pure blood? This is what I hope from the bottom of my heart. I told you as we parted the last time I visited you: Please call me if you need me. I left Baghdad for Jordan anxious and saddened. I was hoping to continue my activities to prevent the deterioration which has been going on ever since. Will you not respond to my call, and the call of every sincere Arab, before it is too late? Can we not work together to regain the friends whom we have lost since the eruption of the crisis, and gain new friends? You have brothers who suffer more than your immediate suffering, through their fear for you, and their realisation of the perils that lie in wait for Iraq. Will you give us the opportunity to move and rectify the situation, to open channels of dialogue between you and your brothers in the Gulf who were shocked and alarmed by what happened, and so they fell, like Iraq, into the trap of a large and growing foreign military presence?

I address these questions to Your Excellency in written form, and I do not believe it eludes my brother the extent of the historic responsibility which your response entails. If you wish to give positive responses I will meet with you to take them directly. On the other hand if you wish to convey your response through an envoy I hope that this will be as soon as possible. If you see otherwise then there is "no power except by God." In that case I would see no need to come to you and to be forced, upon my return, to say that there is no hope in an Arab solution, which is what I have been persistently asked to say. This I have refused, as have my brothers whom I previously visited; I will not permit that such a statement should be a green light and a justification for the great offensive which is being carefully prepared; we will not be a cause for what I fear will be an extremely bitter end.

May God give you success and help, and may He inspire us all with wise decisions and actions and help us in our effort to attain His pleasure. Accept my sincere friendship and may God protect you.

The peace, mercy and blessing of God be upon you.

Western Silence on Kuwait Returnees Denounced

JN1508105591 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Aug 91 pp 1,16

[Editorial: A Royal Gesture Toward the Returnees"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Jordan, which continues to welcome all brothers with open arms, and to share with them its food and water, feels that there is an intentional news blackout imposed on all that is taking place with respect to the Jordanian and Palestinian citizens in Kuwait and all the humiliation, persecution, and displacement to which they are being subjected. This also makes us believe that had the Western countries not

averted their eyes from all these violations, the Kuwaiti Government would not have pursued its policy, which flouts the most basic human rights.

We in Jordan feel that there is collusion between the Western countries and the Kuwaiti authorities on the abominable crimes being committed against our citizens and brothers, and that there is a conspiracy against Jordan to punish and weaken it by expelling tens of thousands to its territory, and increasing its burdens and daily worries while the Jordanian economy continues to pass through a stage of stagnation, and experiences unemployment and inflation problems as a result of the repercussions of the Gulf war.

In view of all this, we ask the Western countries, particularly the alliance countries, not only to discuss seriously the tribulation of our sons and brothers who have returned from Kuwait under circumstances which require urgent intervention, but ask these countries to help Jordan assimilate the tens of thousands of citizens who were forced by the developments of the Gulf crisis and its ongoing repercussions to return, deprived of their human rights.

While awaiting an explanation from the Kuwaiti authorities who perpetuate this tragedy—an answer which might never arrive—we also await an explanation of this silence from the Western countries which raise the banner of human rights, and ask them to adopt an explicit and civilized stand on the disgraceful violations and policies of mass punishment toward people who have contributed to building Kuwait and who spent most of their lives serving Kuwaiti society.

Operations To Continue During 'Hostages Month'

NC1508073091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Aug (MENA)—Lebanese Interior Minister Major General Sami al-Khatib has announced that the current month will be "hostages month" in his country. He added that the Lebanese security apparatus will continue the storming operations it has already commenced to bring the release of all the hostages during August. He noted that the international atmosphere is favorable for such measures.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, al-Khatib pointed out that the intended storming operations will cover the areas of West Beirut and the southern suburb, and, for the first time, the area of Ba'labakk, close to the Lebanese-Syrian border. According to information, a number of hostages were moved to Ba'labakk two weeks ago, he said.

The Lebanese minister expressed his fear that certain parties who are offended by the anticipated end of the hostages issue might embark on new kidnappings, which might delay the release of the hostages.

Al-Khatib Remarks Denied

NC1608054791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] The Interior Ministry's Information Department has denied statements attributed to Interior Minister Major General Sami al-Khatib by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN. The newspaper had cited al-Khatib as saying that storming operations would be carried out in Beirut, the southern suburb, and Ba'labakk to release the hostages within the month.

In a statement, the Information Department said that Minister al-Khatib had not granted any interview to AL-WATAN and had not received any of its reporters accredited to Beirut, and therefore the statements attributed to him are completely without foundation. The department added that the interior minister would never divulge any important security information to the press.

Prime Minister, Shiite Leader on Hostage Issue

NC1608064391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has said that the ongoing contacts to close the file of the hostages have made progress and will end soon. He added that the Lebanese Government does not know where the hostages are being held, otherwise it would have been one of the government's main duties to act to secure their release.

Karami indicated that the contacts are taking place beyond the scope of the state and that, according to information, the issue is being resolved.

Meanwhile, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has said it would be wrong to be overly optimistic about achieving an exchange of hostages for kidnapped persons. He expressed the hope, however, that the UN secretary general will succeed in his mediation and appealed to anyone who has information about the seven Israelis to give it Perez de Cuellar.

[In its report on Shams-al-Din's statement, the Hizballah radio (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic at 0530 GMT on 16 August notes that he termed Israel "the main obstacle to resolving the hostage issue." The report also says: "Shams-al-Din added that any deal should include the four Iranians being held in Lebanon. Regarding the fate of the seven Zionist soldiers, Shams-al-Din said: Some of them may still be alive, but I cannot confirm this."]

Hizballah Commentary Views Hostage-Taking

NC1608081191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0550 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Station commentary: "Hostages—Message Received"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The taking of hostages sent a message that echoed everywhere around the world. Similarly, the recent initiatives to release these hostages sent another message that reverberated to the farthest corners of the globe, a message of great substance and impact. The hostage-holding Islamic Jihad Organization [IJO], sent a message to UN secretary general concerning the hostage issue.

Regardless of the clear and unambiguous position that should be taken on the question of holding people hostage at any time, the circumstances that gave rise to this hostage-taking have now, years after the kidnappings, prompted people not just in our area but all around the world to justify these abductions and defend them.

Certain hardheaded people still refuse to see the truth about what happened and what is happening. There is, however, a growing awareness of the crimes that have been and are still being committed daily against the inhabitants of our region by the Zionist usurpers and their American and Western defenders.

The holding of a hostage in a safe place is certainly no worse than the holding of hundreds, or perhaps thousands, of people in dark prison cells and other places that are too hideous to be described.

Furthermore, a hostage gets everything he wants in terms of means of entertainment and communication with the outside world. The released hostages themselves acknowledged this in their statements to radio and television stations, when they were under no pressure or coersion whatsoever. Actually, some hostages even defended the hostage-taking, saying that this measure

was necessary at a certain stage to promote a cause that might have been forgotten had its defenders not used all possible means to keep it alive.

In contrast, the Muslim and Arab hostages, detainees, and inmates in Zionist prisons suffer from torture, intimidation, harassment, and confinement that keeps them totally isolated from the outside world and turns them into living martyrs who can never be certain whether they will live another day or another hour. If any of these detainees is freed, they will never be able to find any justification for these criminal usurpers who occupy land and smother life, as these usurpers have no cause. The Zionists are merely seizing land to realize their racist, Torah-inspired scheme, a scheme which cannot be acceptable to anyone anywhere.

To reiterate, the position vis-a-vis hostage-taking, at any time and in any place, is clear. While no one can condone the restriction of another person's freedom, extreme circumstances justify extreme measures. This is exactly the message that the hostage-takers were able to send everywhere. Their message to Perez de Cuellar contained a concise statement of their position. This message served its purpose well, justifying the position of the hostage-takers with compelling arguments that no one can dispute. This has been acknowledged by Perez de Cuellar and everyone else who read the message, all of whom have described it as positive and clear.

Hostage-taking, as a message, succeeded in sending certain signals to those concerned and made them call off many of their conspiratorial designs against our people.

The message that accompanied the initiative to release some of the hostages similarly succeeded in conveying the demands of the hostage-takers and all the oppressed in the world to the centers of decisionmaking. It showed those responsible for these centers that the inhabitants of the region are no warmongers, but rather defenders of a cause for which they are prepared to do anything and everything.

The message has been received. It has been understood by all and praised by many. The best way to describe the message is to call it clear, convincing, and true. The holding of hostage is unacceptable, but it must be unacceptable in all places and at all times. This is what the world has recently come to understand.

Phalangist Party's Sa'adah Interviewed

PM160809Z091 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 13 Aug 91 p 3

[Interview with George Sa'adah, leader of the Phalangist Party and minister of telecommunications and post, by Nura Rashid in Cairo; date not given—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Excerpts] George Sa'adah, Lebanese communications minister and leader of the Phalangist Party, has said that Lebanon is for all Lebanese people without exception, and that this constitutes one of the firm foundations for political dialogue and national accord among all groups. Sa'adah pointed out that the Phalangist Party led by him will not be an obstacle to rebuilding the new Lebanon. He emphasized the importance of cooperation and understanding within the Army and the rebuilding of the state with all its political and economic institutions. This, because he believes in the need to keep the Army away from the conflicts and to seek to unite it so that it can become the Army of all the Lebanese. In an interview with AL-ANBA' on the sidelines of the recent Arab communications ministers' conference in Cairo, George Sa'adah added that the Lebanese Government is currently working to stabilize security conditions. [passage omitted]

With regard to the al-Ta'if agreement, he said that an important part of it has been implemented, including the disbandment of the militias, the gathering of weapons, and the constitutional reforms. Ministerial committees have been formed to study the special relations between Lebanon and Syria, to implement decentralization, and to secure the refugees' return. He added that even though the Council of Ministers is working excellently, it has not yet managed to establish agreement on the disputed issues, thus forcing us to reconsider our positions. This will be the object of consultation at its next meetings with Lebanese officials.

He said that the political contacts to be conducted by the Lebanese authorities will center particularly on the implementation of the Council of Ministers' recent resolutions on disbanding the militias. He said that the present Lebanese Government is unbalanced and that he will continue to be one of the ministers boycotting the government as long as it remains in its present form.

With regard to Lebanese-Syrian relations and their future, Sa'adah said: These relations should be steadfast and proceed from on our concern for our sovereignty and independence. This, because Syria is closer to us and there are common borders between us. It is not in Lebanon's interests that there be a misunderstanding with Syria. He emphasized that all Lebanese believe in the need to move toward Syria rationally and realistically.

Sa'adah said that the Lebanese quarter which he leads will open its doors to all political tendencies in Lebanon in the period ahead for the sake of dialogue and partnership. He added that he believes that one of the tasks of the al-Ta'if agreement is to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 stipulating the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanese territory. He welcomed the Lebanese Army's deployment to achieve this, even if it is forced to clash with Israel.

With regard to relations between Egypt and Lebanon and the joint issues between them, the Lebanese minister said: Relations between Egypt and Lebanon are not new or circumstantial; they are very old and have continued

under all conditions, and especially the critical conditions that we have experienced. Lebanon has always cherished its relations with Egypt. And, thank God, now that Egypt is again playing its natural Arab role, we pin great hopes on Egypt's role and Egypt's support for the Lebanese in the issues raised in all international and regional forums.

Asked about Lebanon's request for Egypt to intervene with the United States with regard to putting pressure on Israel to implement Resolution 425 or to wait for Egyptian efforts in this regard, Sa'adah said: Resolution 425 is a permanent Lebanese demand. We have emphasized, and still emphasize, the need to implement it at all the talks held between us and all Lebanese officials, though I am not familiar with the details of the talks that took place between the Lebanese and Egyptian foreign ministers. But surely the Lebanese minister must have sought Egypt's help in this regard, and Egypt is capable of playing a positive role in this connection. [passage omitted]

[Rashid] Are there any U.S. promises regarding the issue of putting pressure on Israel to implement Resolution 425?

[Sa'adah] I cannot say that there are any direct promises. But U.S. officials say that they are for the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement in letter and spirit. The al-Ta'if agreement contains a separate clause on the implementation of Resolution 425. So the United States has pledged to implement that resolution.

[Rashid] Do you believe that the war in Lebanon has practically ended and that the rebuilding stage has started? What has been done to absorb Muslims or the militias into government organs, the Army, and the police?

[Sa'adah] Yes, the war in Lebanon has ended, thank God. We have started the more difficult stage, the rebuilding stage; because it is easy to destroy and devastate, and the difficulty lies in the rebuilding and construction field. We are currently carrying out important activities in this regard and making contacts with friendly and fraternal states to seek their help. With regard to the Muslims' absorption, a decision has been reached by the Council of Ministers in this regard. Contacts have been made among the militia leaders with a view to starting the absorption process. [passage omitted]

[Rashid] What about armed Palestinian activities on Lebanese territory?

[Sa'adah] The Palestinian issue or the Palestinian presence in Lebanon is a complicated problem. It has existed since the eruption of the incidents that afflicted Lebanon in 1975. We must distinguish here between the armed Palestinian presence and the nonarmed Palestinian presence in Lebanon. No two people in Lebanon would disagree over the Palestinian issue; the disagreement is over the armed presence, which started in 1969 and resulted in the tragedy experienced by Lebanon, which caused it to lose a great deal. The Palestinians have gained nothing from their armed presence in Lebanon. The decision to disband the Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias in implementation of the al-Ta'if conference's recommendations was applied to all the Lebanese militias, and all their arms were in fact collected. So it also had to be applied to the Palestinian militias in southern Lebanon.

[Rashid] Does that mean that the Palestinians in Beirut have handed over their arms?

[Sa'adah] The Palestinian presence in Lebanon is not so great as to constitute an obstacle to the extension of the state's authority. The same applied to the south, despite the large Palestinian presence there. The situation has changed since the Army's entry. [passage omitted]

Medecins du Monde Will Continue Services

NC1508053091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] The Medecins du Monde organization has affirmed that it will continue its services and work in Lebanon out of its desire to consolidate the march of peace and reconstruction in Lebanon.

In a statement issued by the organization, it voiced its thanks to President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, Interior Minister Major General Sami al-Khatib, the Lebanese security organs, and the Syrian Arab forces in Lebanon for their efforts which resulted in Jerome Leyraud's release.

India

Pawar: No Slowdown in Armed Forces Modernization

BK1508161891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has said that despite the present economic situation there will be no le'up in the modernization and training of the armed forces. He said it will be the government's endeavor to modernize the armed forces within the available resources so that they are ready to face any challenge. Addressing the officers and jawans [soldiers] of the armed forces on the occasion of Independence Day, the defense minister said that a number of missiles have been successfully tested and new tanks, aircraft, ships, and submarines have been designed and developed with the ongoing efforts in the area of defense research. In his broadcast over All India Radio this evening, the defense minister said efforts are on to modernize the Air Force also. Keeping in view the great responsibility on the Navy to guard a long coastline, this force is being further strengthened.

Mr. Pawar appreciated the role played by the armed forces in the relief and rescue operations during the recent flood in Assam and dropping medicines and other supplies to the cyclone-hit people in the Maldives.

Commentary Defends Country's Defense Expenditure

BK0908124391 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Station Commentary]

[Text] The leading financial institutions, International Monetary Fund and World Bank, had in their latest annual report flayed the Third World countries for spending hefty sums on defense. They admonished them to divert a bulk of the amount to developmental activities. In specific terms, they decried India for spending around 17 percent of the total government expenditure on defense heads. The timing of these announcements is significant. India is in the thick of negotiations with the IMF and the World Bank for securing standby credit as well as long-term structural adjustment loans to tide over its foreign exchange crisis. So, the message for India is loud and clear.

To put the record straight, India has made it known that its defense spending constitutes only 14 percent of the total expenditure. As a truly sovereign country, India believes that these lending bodies have no business to dictate the prioritization of defense expenditure when they are in no position to take guarantee for the security of a country. More so, each country is free to plan its defense budget in accordance with its threat perception.

Pakistan has been trying to use the Indian standpoint on the issue as a grist to its malicious propaganda mill. It has gone wrong spreading the canard that India is not listening to the counsels of the IMF and World Bank, as it will spend the bulk of the loan on military preparations already undertaken to wage a war. According to Islamabad, this exercise is an act of desperation as India has failed to solve the Kashmir problem to its satisfaction. This hue and cry raised by Pakistan stands exposed if one takes a comparative look at the defense expenditure of the major South Asian neighbors. Pakistan's defense budget estimates for 1991-92 [are] to the tune of 70,956 million rupees, marking an increase of 11.58 percent over the previous year's figure of 63,590 million rupees for defense, an increase of 6,000 million rupees or about 4 percent over the revised estimates for 1990-91.

As compared to China and Pakistan, India's defense expenditure as a percentage of GNP is the lowest. The figure for India is 3.5 whereas for China and Pakistan, it is 3.9 and 6.9 respectively. The per capita defense expenditure for India is $12 compared to $20 and $23 for China and Pakistan. Even in terms of deployment of defense personnel per 1,000 citizens, India's figure is the lowest at 1.7. The relative figures for China and Pakistan are 3.5 and 4.5. Here it must be borne in mind that there are a lot of hidden components in the defense budgets of China and Pakistan and, as such, the real index may be much higher than what is published.

The Chinese defense budget, for instance, only shows expenditure like pay and allowance of the Peoples Liberation Army. The cost of hardware is shown elsewhere. Likewise, Islamabad clandestinely slashes away major portion of foreign loans off military heads without showing it in the annual budgetary statements. On the contrary, India has to account for every paisa spent on defense before the members of parliament. The thumb rule for ensuring stability in defense preparedness says that the increase should be in the range of 10 to 15 percent. More so, the increase in our case has turned out to be a myth in real terms. With inflation likely to be [in] the order of 12 to 13 percent, together with nearly 20 percent fall in the value of rupee after two successive devaluations, there would be a sharp reduction in resource availability for defense. This is so when there is every need to make higher allocations for defense.

In terms of India's geopolitical situation, China remains a potential long-term threat. The supply of weapon systems by China to Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal recently figured in the Rajya Sabha. Its sale of M-11 missiles to Pakistan and the vicious attack on India by a Chinese delegation in Colombo recently are enough pointers in this regard. Pakistan poses a more immediate threat. Its strategy is to persist with sponsored terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir by its arming, funding and training of terrorists and secessionists. The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, is now pursuing with greater zeal the plans drawn up by the Inter-Service Intelligence and the (?field) intelligence unit of scaling up the level of interference in Kashmir. Around 10,000 terrorists have been trained, armed and infiltrated into the Kashmir valley and another 4,000 are waiting in various camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir for opportunities to cross

over. Obviously, there is no room for complacency in the light of these security threats. But at the same time, the requisite defense capability should be the best that money can provide.

Militants Said Working To Kill Assam Official

BK1608043291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] In Assam two suspected members of an ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] suicide squad under arrest have confessed to being on a mission to assassinate the state chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia. A UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDAI] report says the two had cyanide capsules and pistols in their possession at the time of arrest on Wednesday.

A 10-kg bomb was found and defused by the police yesterday near (Tipling Bridge) at (Duliajan) in Upper Assam. Police investigations are continuing. On Wednesday, a land mine was unearthed at the Digboi Oil Fields.

Worker Killed; Official Kidnapped in Assam

BK1408154291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] In Assam, two unidentified motorcycle-borne miscreants shot dead a Congress-I worker yesterday at Kolabari in Sonitpur District. Official sources said in Guwahati today that police have launched a massive manhunt to apprehend the culprits.

In another incident, an executive engineer of the Public Health Engineering Department of Goalpara has reportedly been kidnapped yesterday by some unidentified miscreants. Police have apprehended four persons in this connection but the kidnapped engineer has not yet been found.

Militants, Others Killed in Kashmir

BK1508160291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] In Kashmir valley, 23 persons, including 20 militants and one security man, were killed during the last 24 hours. According to an official spokesman in Srinagar today, militants resorted to heavy firing on the security forces since this morning at Sopor. The security forces returned the fire killing 15 militants. Reports say the firing is still continuing. Nine security personnel also sustained injuries in the incident, of whom one later succumbed to injuries. The condition of two others is stated to be critical.

Indefinite Curfew Imposed in Kashmir Town

BK1008041891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir an indefinite curfew was imposed on the border town of Punch last night, following violent incidents in which a woman was killed and several other persons, including 15 policemen, injured. The violence began when some persons tried to force closure of government offices in the town. Police used tear gas and resorted to lathi charge to disperse the mob.

Protest on JKLF's Anti-India Propaganda at UN

BK1608085291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] India has taken strong exception to the misuse of the UN forum by the so-called Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front [JKLF] for its anti-India propaganda. India's permanent representative at Geneva Mr. Prakash Shah in a statement to the UN subcommission on prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities has expressed surprise that a terrorist organization like the JKLF has been allowed to issue threats of violence in a UN forum against India. A representative of the JKLF was invited by a nongovernmental organization to address the ongoing session of the subcommission. Mr. Shah refuted the JKLF allegations regarding the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and asserted that the state is an integral part of India. He said, therefore, the question of self-determination could not be applied to the state. Mr. Shah drew the attention of the subcommisssion to the activities of the various terrorist groups operating in the state, including kidnapping, arson and killings of innocent people.

Lok Sabha Passes Bill Replacing Kashmir Ordinance

BK0908124691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 9 Aug 91

[Text] The Lok Sabha today passed the Representation of the People Amendment Bill 1991, seeking to replace the ordinance which deferred elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Replying to debates, the minister of state for law and justice, Mr. T.R. Kumaramangalam, said the government will soon come out with a package of electoral reforms. He said suggestions made at the all-party meeting are all being examined. He said the center is keen to restore the political process in Jammu and Kashmir and said no compromise would be made on the country's sovereignty.

Disruptive Activities Prevention Amendment Passed

BK1208125691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] Parliament has passed the Terrorists and Disruptive Activities [TADA] Prevention Amendment Bill, extending application of the TADA Act for another two years to check terrorist menance. The Lok Sabha gave its approval today with 133 votes in favor and 116 against.

The house rejected a statutory resolution moved by Mr. Syed Shabuddin, Janata Dal, disapproving the ordinance issued in May this year in this regard.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, who intervened, assured the house that TADA will not be misused for suppressing political opponents and trade unionism.

Minister Solanki on Mauritius, Singapore Visits

Signs Communique With Mauritius

BK1008153191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] India has agreed to share its high-tech know-how with Mauritius in computer and remote sensing fields. This was stated in a joint communique issued at the end of the two-day session of the Indo-Mauritius joint commission in Port Louis today. India will provide technical assistance, software equipment to set up a remote sensing center and computer software unit. The communique said that the Indian side also agreed to assist Mauritius in agriculture, tea industry, health and education. The focus of attention will be to develop human resources in the island. For this, India will send 20 experts and will receive 50 persons to be provided training.

Speaking at the closing session of the commission, the Mauritius deputy prime minister, Dr. Ghurburrun, appreciated the assistance and said that India had been a reliable partner in the development effort of his country.

The external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, who is cochairman of the commission, hoped that exchange of technical experts will bring to Mauritius fuller awareness of India's technical capabilities. The next session of the commission will be held in New Delhi 1993.

Later, Mr. Solanki called on the Mauritius governor general, Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, and the prime minister, Mr. Anerood Jugnauth, and discussed ways and means to improve bilateral relations.

Arrives in Singapore

BK1208041291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 12 Aug 91

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, arrived in Singapore today on a day's official visit. He is accompanied by Mr. L.L. Mehrotra, secretary, East [department], in the External Affairs Ministry. He will have talks with the Singapore prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, and the foreign minister, Mr. Wong Kan Seng. AIR [All India Radio] Southeast Asia correspondent says that Singapore is keen to know the recent changes in India's economic policy and the prospects of greater trade and economic relations between the two countries. Mr. Solanki will have Singapore's assessment of the Cambodian problem and security situation in the area.

Returns Home

BK1308052891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Singapore has shown an interest in making investments in India. This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, while talking to newsmen on his arrival at Delhi Airport last night from a tour of Mauritius and Singapore. Mr. Solanki said the Singapore prime minister and foreign minister have welcomed India's new economic policy. The minister expressed satisfaction over his visit to Mauritius in connection with the Indo-Mauritius joint commission talks. He said the projects and programs agreed upon at the talks will go a long way in strengthening the relations between the two countries.

Egypt's Deputy Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

BK1108133091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 11 Aug 91

[Text] The deputy prime minister of Egypt, Mr. Butrus Ghali, arrived in Bombay today on a goodwill mission to India. He is carrying a message of friendship and brotherhood from the Egyptian president, Mr. Husni Mubarak, to the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. Mr. Ghali told newsmen that he will discuss with the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, about the plans for the next ministrial meeting of the Nonaligned Movement scheduled to be held at Accra in Ghana next month. Dr. Ghali, who is the top contender for the post of the UN secretary general, said he will also canvas India's support for an African candidate for the post.

Editorial Views Bush-Gorbachev Summit, START

BK0908102891 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 91 p 11

[Editorial: "One-and-a-Half Summit"]

[Text] The treaty signed at Moscow between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to reduce their strategic weapons by 30 per cent was in fact a tea party where they decided to back up anyone not on their list who dares to have an atom bomb or a missile. What they intend to do about the audacious was clear in Mr Gorbachev's assertion that what was of key importance was to create "an insurmountable barrier to acquiring nuclear weapons." That the two leaders could easily formalise the START treaty was a result of the ground work which their Foreign Ministers, Mr Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and Mr James Baker, did at their meeting in Washington a few weeks ago. Our planet has not become an abode of peace after the agreement. The U.S. and the Soviet Union continue to possess enough strategic weapons to destroy the world. According to defence experts, the START treaty does not eliminate the risk of war, though it reduces the risk. Therefore, the most cheerful view of the summit is that

the START treaty makes the trigger fingers on both sides less itchy. Since in a very real sense the balance of terror continues to ensure peace between the two most potential destroyers of the planet, one can only take a cynical view of the achievements of the Moscow summit. Of course, one big gain for Mr Gorbachev is to steer his country's Reaganian definition of an evil empire to Mr Bush's most favoured nation (MFN).

But, one suspects, Mr Gorbachev's driving urge to please Mr Bush is not just to make his weapons less threatening to the West. He must get the West's capital and technology, and he is prepared to pay a price for that. And, that, apparently is his enthusiastic support for the American programme to limit nuclear and missile capability. The world may get a very wrong message from a US-Soviet agreement to limit nuclear-blessed big power status to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. These powers have been just frills in a bipolar syndrome. Of the two real actors, Moscow has retired hurt. The nuclear proliferation question is a global issue which Moscow apparently is ready to consign to Washington. However totally global a Moscow-Washington summit may claim to be, it is no longer true that Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachev have between themselves all the cares of the world. Therefore, their summit today should be seen for what it is: a meeting between one and a half super powers. If Mr Bush wishes to push his nuclear and missile nonproliferation programme, he must seek an endorsement beyond Moscow. Not only has the United Nations to be more representative of today's realpolitik, the U.S. itself must recognise that global decisions and directions would be more valid if he transcends the Big Two power framework and takes into account newly emerged powers like Germany and Japan and middle powers like India, Brazil and some others.

Government Liberalizes Foreign Technology Imports

BK1608080091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1802 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 14 (AFP)—The Indian Government announced Wednesday that 34 industries would be allowed to import foreign technology without receiving clearance from the state.

The decision, announced in an Industry Ministry press statement here, follows moves by the new government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's to liberalise India's economy.

Some of the industries named were:

Metallurgical industries, boilers and steam generating plants, electrical equipment, transportation, industrial machinery, machine tools, industrial robots and their controls and accessories, agricultural machinery, earth-moving machinery and industrial instruments.

Scientific and electromedical instruments, laboratory equipment, nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilisers, chemicals (other than fertilisers), drugs and pharmaceuticals, paper and pulp, automobile tyres and tubes, plate glass, ceramics, cement products, carbon and carbon products, pre-tensioned high pressure RCC [expansion unknown] pipes and printing machinery.

The liberalisation policies announced on July 24 opened up several sectors of the economy previously reserved for the state and also the limit of equity holdings by foreign investors to 51 percent from 40 percent.

Private Firms Allowed To Produce Defense Items

BK1008130491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Aug 91

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, says private factories will be allowed to produce defense equipment. Speaking to newsmen after the launching of the second fast patrol vessel, Kamala Devi, at Vasco in south Goa, Mr. Pawar said private companies producing defense articles will be given a purchase assurance by the government. He said ordnance factories having spare capacity will also be allowed to produce other goods. The defense minister, however, clarified that the production of items other than defense equipment will be limited to 50 percent of the capacity.

Iran

Commentary on U.S. 'Warmonger' Posing as Pacifist

LD1508214191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] According to the [words indistinct] on Tuesday U.S. President George Bush presented to the U.S. Congress the strategic plan of the National Security Council, which he has drawn up for 1992. Although details of this plan have not been released, Bush, in a letter appended to this plan, has outlined the main U.S. objectives for the coming year.

He has [word indistinct] in the letter: America's national security strategy for the next year is unprecedented, considering the fact that Washington was not in a position at any juncture of history to formulate a strategy for the world, but now enjoys such a position. Planning the [words indistinct] imagine that in the wake of [word indistinct] of Communism and elimination of the (?Soviet) superpower from the equations [words indistinct] international strategy, America will have no challenger on the world scene and that it will assume the world leadership. However, they are ignorant of the fact that all indications point to the future world order being a multipolar order in which economic power will play a main and prime role.

The United States which is facing new and serious economic problems everyday cannot emerge as the sole power determining international issues. Today the

united Germany, in its capacity as a major economic power figures alongside Japan, which has eclipsed all over rivals [word indistinct] as a power competing America on the international scene. America, which by mobilizing its allies' forces, managed to drive aggressor Saddam out of Kuwait [words indistinct] with the same ease be able to govern international politics with the help of the supremacy of the United States [words indistinct] single [words indistinct] to establishing any world order.

In his letter to the United States Congress, Mr. Bush has deemed revival of Western democracy in East Europe and the allies victory in the Persian Gulf as factors for declaring United States supremacy and status in the present day world. However, the United States president has forgotten the point that if the Marxist-Leninist ideology are [words indistinct] inflexible dogmatism has made [words indistinct] as a rival ideology, [words indistinct] Islamic revolution and thought of revolutionary Islam and their capacity as a superior idea have been revived in the world instead. And these are moving forward to emerge into a viable power in the face of the dominant atheism and insecurity by communicating their universal message to the oppressed masses.

In this letter, George Bush noted that the world is at present plagued with racial segregation, conflict [words indistinct] of mass destruction and egoism, has referred to America's (?trouble) in resolving these problems, something which is viewed as the most interesting point of the letter. [Words indistinct] to be blamed for causing regional tension and spreading lethal weapons, introduces itself as the leading force to overcome international crises. [Words indistinct] the West into [words indistinct] to stop the export of destructive weapons, and terminate American aid to regimes like the one in Tel Aviv, which are mainly responsible for regional tension. But everyone knows Washington continues to be warmonger while posing as a pacifist.

Velayati on Pressuring Israel for Hostage Release

LD1508152891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] A message was sent today by Foreign Minister Velayati to British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd in reply to the message of thanks to our country's foreign minister by the British foreign minister regarding the release of British hostage John McCarthy.

In the message Mr. Velayati points out that the Islamic Republic of Iran repeatedly announced that she will use her influence to bring about the release of hostages. He is happy that our humanitarian efforts have shown their desired result.

In another part of the message it says: The release of Western hostages created extremely appropriate conditions for the release of all hostages, and this is during a time when the Zionist regime actually created obstacles in the way of the hostages' release by its obstructionism.

The message continues: The resolution of problems and obstacles that have been created cannot be achieved without putting pressure on the Israeli regime for the release of Lebanese and Palestinian hostages, especially Shaykh 'Ubayd. This is not achievable without the concerted efforts of all the interested states, including Britain.

Velayati Interviewed on Peace Plan, World Order

Part I on Peace Plan, World Issues

LD1508182491 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1445 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Part one of a two-part "exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified reporter; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] In an exclusive interview with our correspondent, Foreign Minister Velayati discussed a number of major regional and international issues. As it is a rather extensive interview, it will be broadcast in two parts today and tomorrow. Here is the first part of the interview:

[Reporter] I would like to start by thanking you, Mr. Velayati, for giving IRIB an exclusive interview. We know, of course, that your time is precious and we thank you. I want to begin, first of all, by asking you how you evaluate the U.S. attempts for sponsoring what it calls a Middle East peace conference.

[Velayati] I have to say that they are trying to bring all Arabs and Israel to these peace talks and according to our assessment, Israel will not allow the Americans to succeed in this peace plan because until now, the Arab countries that are related to this matter—those who are included have accepted the American peace plan—but Israel has not accepted the peace plan. But they have admitted this proposal to attend the meeting. So attending the meeting does not mean they have accepted the peace plan because this peace plan is based on two United Nations Security Council resolutions, 242 and 338. And we know that Israel does not agree with the spirit of Resolution 242 and also 338.

They have repeatedly said that they will not withdraw from the West Bank and the Golan Heights. Also, they continue their policy for bringing Jews from all over the world—specifically from the Soviet Union, Eastern European countries, Ethiopia, India, and some other places in the world—to Israel as immigrants. So we can see that practically speaking, Israel is preparing itself not to withdraw from these places but only they have said that they are ready to attend in that meeting.

On the other hand, there is the intifada and the Palestinian people are determined to continue their struggle. They are against this peace process; they have said so repeatedly.

[Reporter] So the reality of it is still a little shaky.

[Velayati] I think the American peace plan will not succeed, this is all speculation.

[Reporter] The U.S. officials have, for some time now, been talking about the new world order—and this of course has been the major topic of conversation in Europe as well. How do you assess this so called new order?
[Velayati] Maybe this is a very bad heritage of the ending of the cold war between the two superpowers and the collapse of communism in the Eastern block. If the U.S. wants to have a new world order based on one superpower, I have to say that in this plan also they will not succeed because there are some other great powers in the world and there is a real competition among them. This is one important reason. Another reason is the growing of the resistance of the Third World countries because according to what people understand from this new order the Americans are talking about is they want to strengthen their domination over the Third World countries for more exploitation. I have to tell you that there are some other important elements that should be taken into consideration in this assessment.

[Reporter] So you do not see the U.S. as becoming the lone superpower.
[Velayati] This is my guess. What you can see in the Western European countries—I mean after 1992—you will have one country in Western Europe instead of 12 countries. And you have Japan and Southeast Asia.

Recently the prime minister of Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, has suggested a new stand for regional cooperation in Southeast Asia and the Far East. That is something like EEC but among the countries in the Far East and Southeast Asia. Of course it was an important suggestion; the U.S. raised strong objections against this plan. But according to my assessment, these countries will continue their...[corrects himself] this trend towards some kind of unification among themselves. First step Southeast Asia, and after that they will draw the attention of Japan, China, Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan. So there are many signs and indications that would tell us that what the U.S. wants to do; they will not succeed in doing that.

Part II on Hostages, Iraqi Invasion

LD1508184191 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1445 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Part two of a two-part "exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified reporter; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Foreign Minister Velayati has discussed a number of significant global, regional, and international developments in an exclusive interview with IRIB English news. The first part of the interview was telecast yesterday, here is the second part:

[Reporter] Dr. Velayati, in whose interest would a regional disarmament be?

[Velayati] This is to the benefit of the United States and some other great powers. Israel will also benefit from this plan.

[Reporter] To what extent is the current situation in the Middle East caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait?

[Velayati] We deeply believe that the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait has created a lot of problems for the people of Iraq and for the region. The real presence, I mean the stronger presence of the Unites States and some other Western countries in the Persian Gulf is the result of the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. The acceptance of the American peace plan toward the question of Palestine is another result of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. This is a disaster for Palestine, for Palestinians. So I have to say that there are also some other important difficulties—for the people of Iraq, for the people of Kuwait and also the people of the Arab world, especially those countries that are close to Iraq. All of these parties have suffered from this invasion.

You can see in Jordan, they have many difficulties, especially during these days, after the crisis—they have suffered a lot. There are some other Arab countries that have been affected by what Iraq has done against Kuwait.

[Reporter] As for the release of the three Western hostages in Lebanon, how do you predict the situation and what do you think the next stage will be?

[Velayati] I think that was a good gesture, but this process should continue. This is the beginning and now it is the turn of Western countries to put pressure on Israel to release Lebanese Muslims who are in Israel as captives. These Lebanese are—mostly are—civilians and innocent people who have been abducted from the southern parts of Lebanon to Israel. According to our assessment, for our Muslims, specifically for the Lebanese, the release of Shaykh 'Ubayd is very important. We hope that this process will continue and all hostages will be free as soon as possible, regardless of their nationalities.

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

Syrian Acceptance of U.S. Peace Plan Viewed

NC1508163591 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 29 Jul 91 pp 16, 3

[Zahra 'Alavi commentary: "The Middle East Peace Mirage"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] It can be said that Palestinian aspirations have always been a playground for Arab governments. Every Arab leader wanting to gain influence in the region has proclaimed himself the defender of the Palestinians. The latest example of this fact was Saddam Husayn who, by linking the Palestinian issue with the occupation of Kuwait, paved the way for

the current regional situation in which Arab governments, including frontline and reactionary states, are vying with each other to show their support for the U.S. Middle East peace plan. [passage omitted]

Syrian television interrupted its regular newscast to broadcast "Hafiz al-Asad's reply to Bush's plan," prompting many to ask how Syria, which for years was in the front line of the struggle against the Zionist regime, could change its position and be ready to recognize Israel and sit at the negotiating table with that country to discuss differences? [passage omitted]

The reasons for Syria's acceptance of the U.S. plan can be summarized in the following way:

1. With the end of the Cold War and the improved relations of the two superpowers, the Soviet Union has forsaken its friends and has denied them assistance. The Soviet Union has been reduced to a mere shadow of its former self due to U.S. international policies.

On the other hand, the break up of the Eastern bloc, which used to be Syria's main economic, military and political supporter, has resulted in Syria's losing international support and the surfacing of intense internal problems.

2. The escalation of Syria's economic crisis in view of the fact that it does not have access to Arab financial aid.

3. Israel's passive actions in the Persian Gulf war and the sympathy it received as a result of the gift of Saddam's missile attacks.

Economic assistance is pouring into Israel from West European countries while East European countries are seeking the resumption of ties with the Zionist regime.

4. Syria needs improved relations with the United States to consolidate its position in Lebanon.

Now that the Arabs are moving toward a compromise with the despotic Zionist regime, is it not time that we asked ourselves: Why the Palestinians are fighting alone?

Editorial Cautions Syria

NC1208152991 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 5 Aug 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Syria, the Last of the Barricades"]

[Text] In its most recent official statement, Syria asserted: "Israel's attendance at a peace conference will be meaningless unless it commits itself to honor the UN resolutions and withdraw from the Arab land it occupies."

On the other hand, Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman, in a recent interview with the Voice of Lebanon, stated: "Any kind of pressure on or harsh measures against the kidnappers in Lebanon could endanger the lives of the hostages and so should be avoided."

The hidden message the Syrian Government's new position sends is that this country is looking for an opportunity to make a final show of strength before sitting down at the negotiating table with Israel. In fact, Syria's main objective is to use its remaining weapons to improve its position in the Arab-Israeli peace talks, something that is unacceptable to Islamic nations.

What the officials of Damascus must remember is that the stigma attached to any display of willingness to enter into negotiations with a usurping and illegitimate government, which has been the target of such widespread condemnation, cannot be removed by any moves on their part.

Syria must bear two things in mind. The first is that the root of the conflict in the Middle East is the existence of injustice. "Peace is a beautiful ideal, but justice is even better." The Middle East Muslims have been engaged in a tragic and destructive war for the last 40 years because their legitimate rights have been ignored. It is clear, therefore, that any formula for achieving peace in the Middle East must ensure that these rights are restored.

The Middle East's need for justice is greater than its need for peace. Wars were fought there to destroy oppression, not to secure peace, and as long as the sources of this injustice remain, there is no reason to believe peace will be achieved. The first act of repression and injustice committed against the Muslims of the Middle East was the imposition of the regime occupying Jerusalem through Western support, and justice will only be done when Israel is eliminated from the region.

Israel's very existence generates insecurity in the Middle East, but this insecurity ensures the Zionists' survival. Any solution that ignores this crucial fact will be worthless and dishonorable.

The second thing Syria must remember is that it lost its credibility in the fight against anti-Zionism the day its forces went to stand beside the U.S. ones in the Persian Gulf war.

Syria is seriously mistaken if it believes it can gain more from Israel at the peace talks than Egypt did with Camp David. The kind of peace talks the United States envisages for the Arab governments, especially now that they have lost their traditional support from the Soviet Union, indicates that despite the attempt to portray these governments' participation as serving the Arab nation's interests, their participation is really intended to further the leaders' personal interests and those of their governments. This means that Israel can take a hard line and drive the Arabs into a retreat. It is only to be expected that Israel will refuse not just to restore those rights that have been usurped (including a return of the

Golan Heights), but will also try to endanger what rights they still have through its "diplomacy of stalling for time."

The final point that needs to be stressed is that the Muslims of Lebanon do not need a guardian or someone to be kind to them. Islamic groups took hostages from the Western governments' agents because they sought to make the world listen to their oppressed cries. Kidnapping in Lebanon is in fact a situation in which the jailed are holding their jailors. The Lebanese nation has been the hostage of the immoral policies of Israel and its allies, and it has suffered greatly from them. The Islamic groups in Lebanon saw kidnapping as the only course available to them; they acted on the basis of logic, not emotion. It is not a question of whether they should be treated with harshness or affection. The Islamic groups are acting on the basis of full awareness as they try to obtain their rights. If Syria or any other country is interested in solving this issue, they should be directing their efforts toward working to ensure justice rather than talking about affection.

'Arafat Appeals for Support From 'Ulen.a in Qom

NC1208135391 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 5 Aug 91 p 3

[Text] News section—In a letter to the sources of emulation and the 'ulema of Qom Religious Seminary, Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, called on them to confront the "American-Zionist" plot in the form of a conference on Arab-Israeli compromise.

In the letter dated 30 July [date as published], 'Arafat requests the sources of emulation and the 'ulema of Qom to raise their strong voices and to once again become the forerunners of the movement confronting the Zionist regime's plots and to help the oppressed Palestinian nation.

This letter, which was sent by WAFA to JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper, stresses the fact that the American plan for an Arab-Israeli compromise is treacherous and points out that the rights of the Palestinian nation will be trampled on if this plot is hatched.

In this letter, Yasir 'Arafat also attempted to use some Koranic verses and described regional developments as extremely rapid and the steps taken to wipe out the Palestinians' aspirations as deep.

Observers who follow regional affairs believe that Yasir 'Arafat's attempt in sending the letter to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his recent request to the sources of emulation and 'ulema of the Qom Religious Seminary, despite the compromising stance by the PLO leader, is taking place when rivalry has broken out among the Arab leaders for participation in the peace conference and in view of the fact that this conference will be held without the participation of the Palestinian sides.

Political observers believe that the about-face in 'Arafat's stance toward the Islamic Republic of Iran—and everyone knows his stances during the eight-year Iraq-Iran war—stems from the fact that Saddam's regime suffered a heavy defeat and because of the dispersion among the stances of the Arab leaders after the Persian Gulf crisis.

The text of Yasir 'Arafat's letter to the sources of emulation and the 'ulema of the Qom Religious Seminary is published below for our readers:

In the name of God, the almighty and merciful.

In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful.

"Glory to God, who did take His servant for a journey by night to the farthest mosque, whose precincts we did bless,—in order that we might show Him some of our signs: For He is the one who heareth and seeth all things." [Koranic verse]

To the esteemed sources of emulation, may their shadows be lengthened.

To the esteemed clergymen of the Qom Religious Seminary, may God guide them.

Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

I pray to God Almighty to bless you and to grant you health and success in preserving and elevating Islam.

I am writing this hasty letter following the developments and significant and hazardous changes threatening holy Jerusalem and the problem of the Palestinian nation and our Islamic and Arab ummah.

Our region, which is today witnessing rapid steps by the United States of America with two various criteria in mind, clearly and overtly reveals the dangerous nature of its approach toward the Arabs and the Muslims concerning their main problem, that is, the Palestine problem.

The objective behind the plot that has been engineered is to normalize Arab-Israeli relations; and with the signing of agreements, Israel will gain whatever it wants and the Palestinian nation and its just rights and sanctities will be forgotten.

This does not conform with international law and norms and it will grant the Zionist occupiers the legitimacy to continue their plots in the form of usurping and confiscating lands, in setting up Jewish settlements and housing Jewish immigrants, and in exiling the problem of holy Jerusalem and its residents. With this plot, the Israelis' blackmail, the aggressions against Islamic and Christian sanctities in the holy city, and the confiscation of the lands of this city and granting its Judaization will continue so that in this way the Palestinian character of the city will be eliminated.

Esteemed sources of emulation and respected 'ulema:

This American-Zionist plot targets the combatant Palestinian nation and its national rights and sanctitites. Our Islamic and Arab ummah is facing this plot as it is facing the insistence on the Judaization of the Islamic and Christian shrines in Palestine and in holy Jerusalem.

Our combatant and resistant nation in the land of the isra' [Prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to Jerusalem] and mir'aj [Muhammad's ascent from Jerusalem to heaven] of our dear Prophet, fully believe that the esteemed sources of emulation and the respected 'ulema will once again raise their voices and become the forerunners to warn of the danger of this Zionist plot.

I, too, am confident that our Islamic ummah and Arab masses and their leaders will give their consent to your valuable cries in support for the sanctities and for holy Jerusalem, the first Kiblah and the third holy shrine of the Muslims; the place of the mir'aj of the dear Prophet of Islam Muhammad, peace be upon him and his scion; the birthplace of Jesus Christ, peace be upon Him; and the secret of coexistence and forgiveness.

In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful.

"And We wished to be gracious to those who were being depressed in the land, to make them leaders in faith and make them heirs." [Koranic verse]

I pray to God almighty for the success of all those who are striving for good, and for the success of our nation and of the holy cause of our nation.

In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful.

"Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into the hearts of the enemies, of God and your enemies, and others besides, whom you may not know, but whom God doth know." [Koranic verse]

Praying for the blessings of God, and with hopes that we will perfrom our prayers in liberated Jerusalem.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian government, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

Tunis, 17 Muharram 1412, 29 July 1991.

Editorial Views Appeal

NC1208141091 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 5 Aug 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A Word With 'Arafat"]

[Text] "America only intends to solve Israel's problems with the Arabs and not the problems of the Palestinians under the deceitful slogan of peace." Stating this in a message to our country's president, Yasir 'Arafat notes: "The peace proposed by America is anti-Islamic, anti-Arab, and especially detrimental to the Palestinian nation." Also, in a separate letter to the esteemed sources of emulation, he has called on them to carry out their important and historic duty to Islam and to the Palestinian nation at this juncture.

These messages bring to mind recent major points and bitter issues concerning the Palestine problem. 'Arafat's stance and the contents of the messages show that the PLO leader logically confesses that it is the Islamic Revolution and the followers of "the world movement of Islam" that should have the last say if something is to be done and the allocation of Palestine's Islamic lands to the savage occupiers obstructed.

Actually, the correctness of the Islamic Republic's stances on regional problems are being proven one by one, and even those who were seeking their interests in other places and were intentionally ignoring realities are today facing a situation in which they inevitably have to accept facts.

From the very outset of the Islamic Revolution, the "Palestine problem" became the major pivot of the revolution's foreign policy and it found the place it deserved. Islamic Iran always called on the Palestinian leaders to understand genuine realities and wanted them to avoid becoming dependent on the conditional assistance from the Arab courts, warning that they would thus be inflicting a blow and doing major harm to the oppressed Palestinian nation.

It is bitter, but true that today all those forecasts materialized and the PLO leader feels that because of his dependence on conditional assistance from Arab courts, and specifically because of having adopted policies that gladdened the hearts of the inauspicious Arab kings, the PLO is treading a path of no return and that even its standing among the Palestinian nation also has been harmed.

'Arafat is no longer popular in Arab courts. He has been omitted from the scene of regional political calculations and he has lost his past credibility among his people. It is clear that the indifference shown by the courts is ordered by and under pressure from America and Israel. But the indifference shown by the Palestnian people to 'Arafat and to the PLO is due to the many major mistakes 'Arafat and his faction made and because he and his faction retreated step by step from their positions in order to gain the favors of America and Israel. But they have finally reached a point where neither Israel nor America, and neither Arab reaction nor the Palestinian nation, accept them.

'Arafat and his faction inflicted great blows to the Palestinian movement. Even when the oppressed Palestinians lost hope in every direction and rose to demand their rights, 'Arafat and his faction tried to extinguish the flames of rage of the Palestinian people instead of trying to support this oppressive uprising.

Some of the PLO leaders even boasted about their services to Israel and America and blatantly said that the PLO provided information to Israel and America on at

least 200 anti-Israeli and anti-American operations and thus thwarted these operations.

The blow inflicted by 'Arafat and his faction to the Palestinian people was not minor. To satisfy Israel and America, he first banned all anti-Israeli operations outside the borders of occupied Palestine and then continued the same policy and banned all operations against the occupiers inside occupied Palestine. Naturally, by seeing this disgraceful retreat on the one hand and the vast dimensions of Israel's crimes and the intimidation methods and anti-Palestinian threats by the occupiers on the other, the oppressed Palestinian people began to distance themselves from 'Arafat and his faction and described them as compromisers and even "traitors."

It would be good if 'Arafat explained what he and his faction did when the "intifadah" started. Instead of encouraging and supporting the oppressed and instead of placing their vast resources at the disposal of the "intifadah" they tried to "ride the wave" and to harness the intifadah and to rush to Israel's aid in suppressing it.

What was the "intifadah?" The "intifadah" was the most natural reaction by the oppressed Palestinian nation to the indifference shown by the Arab heads during the Amman summit toward the "Palestinian ideal." 'Arafat surely remembers that during tha summit the Palestine issue was intentionally cast into oblivion, that the Israeli threat against the region was ignored, and that instead the Islamic Revolution was portrayed as the "major regional threat."

It was precisely because of this that the zealous Palestinian nation was enraged and started its sacred "intifadah" movement and terrified Israel. It started to harass the savage occupiers and "revealed" who the compromisers were. But instead of understanding his mistakes, 'Arafat colluded with Mubarak and tried to halt the movement for at least six months. But he was unable to do so then, and he is still unable to do so.

The threat is close. It is only one step ahead. The time is not right to complain about or to denounce forces. Therefore, we are not insisting on reproachfully recalling the bitter past of the Palestinian issue and the blows that were inflicted on it by 'Arafat. What was said above was a discussion on the root of the incidents today. If 'Arafat thought in the same way when the regional courts attached importance to him as he does today, certainly things would not have reached the point they have and Arab reaction would not be as inconsiderate as it is today.

But it is still not late. 'Arafat certainly remembers the incidents in 1349 [1970], when America started serious efforts with the same goals that it has in mind today to end the Palestinian problem to Israel's benefit. In those days, the Palestinian resistance cells started their brave operations and displayed their anti-American and anti-Israeli rage and they were able to prove to everyone that the Palestinian nation is alive and will upset the treachery against the "Palestinian ideal."

'Arafat certainly remembers that he directly and personally assumed the responsibility for all those incidents and threatened that these operations would continue with the intention of ending the treachery. Today, even though the PLO leader and his organization lack their past credibility, nevertheless, they have the same potentials and even more at their disposal. They can regain their past standing and credibility if they courageously act.

The great Palestinian nation is so forgiving that it can accept the forces that have returned to the arms of the people and to support them. Today is the day to test the remarks made by 'Arafat. Today it will be clarified if his new stand is based on his bankruptcy or his belief. If he is making these remarks because of his bankruptcy and if these remarks are merely a diplomatic move, then surely 'Arafat will be wasting the immense operational resources of the PLO and will continue to remain faithful to his commitments to Israel, America, and Arab reaction. But if what he has said is based on belief, in other words, if he is confident that Islam is in danger, that the "heads" should make decisions, and that they are responsible in front of history and the nations; and if he is confident that the American plan is a deceit which is aimed at solving Israel's problems and not the problems of the Palestinians, then he will not be in doubt as far as putting to use the immense operational capabilities of the young Palestinian forces that have been absorbed in the PLO. 'Arafat should not wait for a miracle. He has the weapons of power and of operational capability inside and outside occupied Palestine and immense and innumerable potentials at his disposal. Today is the day to use these. But if 'Arafat and his faction fold their hands and sit, then no message and no other attempt can forgive him for not having carried out the great responsibility that rests on his shoulders and definitely tomorrow no justification on his side will be acceptable.

JAHAN-E ESLAM Interviews Mohtashami

Part 1

NC1108120491 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 29 Jul 91 p 3

[First of two-part "exclusive" interview with former Interior Minister Ayatollah Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami by unidentified correspondent; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [JAHAN-E ESLAM] Your Excellency: We would like to ask you about some important topical questions which concern Islamic nations and governments. We would like to ask you your opinions on some issues because of Your Excellency's knowledge of political affairs, especially in the Middle East region. The disarmament issue has been propounded recently by the Americans, and Europe deafened the ears of the world about it as well. The Americans proposed a Middle East peace plan to which Arab governments reportedly responded favorably. What is your opinion on the issue?

[Mohtashami] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. The disarmament issue concerning weapons of mass destruction was propounded after America put forth the issue of a new world order following the disintegration of the eastern bloc before the Persian Gulf crisis. The Persian Gulf war destroyed Iraq and the Iraqi people's resources. That was when the United States began talking about disarmament. The plan of the new world order dealt with detente and extinguishing world hotspots. By hotspots, the superpowers and arrogant powers led by America meant Iran, Lebanon, the Palestinian intifadah, and Islamic movements in North Africa which were forming under the influence of the Imam's thoughts and the Islamic Revolution. At any rate, America, with its hegemonic and superpower nature, was trying to alter the situation in these hotspots to its own benefit.

Regional balances, especially in the Middle East following the Persian Gulf crisis, America's conflict with Iraq, Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, and the defeat that Kuwait [as published] suffered, brought about the disarmament issue. The pretext for this topic was the bombing of Iraq's nuclear power plant in Baghdad and Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction; namely atomic, chemical, and biological weapons. These are weapons which only America and the Soviet Union should have. Iraq claimed that it had access to these weapons and the technology to manufacture them. This became the pretext for America's Middle East disarmament proposal. It should be understood that America is claiming that no Middle East country, not only Iraq, should have weapons of mass destruction, including strategic weapons such as long-range missiles that cover a radius of more than 150 km.

They also claim that chemical and nuclear weapons are weapons of mass destruction even while military industries in many countries play an effective role in producing these weapons. America wants Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Algeria to disarm. [passage omitted]

Despite the fact that America, the West, and even the Soviet Union armed Israel with various types of deadly and advanced weapons, they still seem to believe that Israel—that is, the regime occupying Jerusalem—is vulnerable and that the preservation of their arrogant and hegemonic interests in general lies in preserving Israel's security and strength. They are afraid that these weapons might one day fall into the hands of the Muslims and thus threaten the existence of their illegitimate child. This is why they have created this commotion about Middle East disarmament. The Islamic world should unite. Muslims should acquire the necessary strength to counter any threat if our enemies are not disarmed. There is no other alternative.

This is the general picture on disarmament and America's objectives in proposing their plan.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] Please explain why the U.S. peace plan has forced the mercenary Arab governments into compromise.

[Mohtashami] [passage omitted] Following Anwar al-Sadat's disgraceful act in the Camp David agreement, His Eminence the Imam resorted to a symbolic revolutionary step and ordered that relations be severed with treacherous Egypt because of the al-Sadat decision.

Of course, I would like to say here that many of those who long for relations with America and the West are acting contrary to the policies of the revolution and the policies implemented during the first decade of the revolution under the supervision of the Imam. At that time priority in foreign policy was given to the establishing relations with the Islamic world, the Third World, and then with countries that have mutual relations with Iran. These priorities changed in the past few years. Now priority is given to relations with Europe.

It is easy to deduce that if priority is given to Europe, and countries like France, Italy, Japan, and so on, then the priority given to Islamic and Third World countries has to be downgraded.

This is a situation that the United States and the West favor. In other words, they created this situation in the Middle East, they recognized the state of Israel, and they strengthened and developed its political and military structure.

What has been a source of concern for America and the West is that the illegitimate and usurper Israeli regime has common borders with countries that always regard it as an enemy. The oppressed faces of the Palestinian refugees is always visible in the Arab and Islamic countries and the occupiers and the Zionists will never be able to rest in peace. [passage omitted]

I should also point out that Israel's situation and the absence of political and regional stability that it faces has been so great that until before the official recognition of the occupying regime by Anwar al-Sadat and his visit to Jerusalem, no European head of state, minister, or official dared to visit Palestine or travel to Jerusalem. After Anwar al-Sadat opened the gate, the French Foreign Minister manifested the malicious nature of the party ruling France by visiting Israel.

This malicious policy was evident both in the support they extended to Bani-Sadr and later during the imposed war and as Saddam's backbone as well as in relation with the oppressed Palestinian nation when they stood next to the Zionists and took the first step to overcome the fear that prevailed by officially visiting Israel, after which the rest of the European ministers and officials began visiting occupied Palestine.

Of course these political steps each played an effective role in strengthening Israel, but none of these could fully guarantee the stability of the regime occupying Palestine.

It was only after the Persian Gulf crisis that America started to fulfill all its objectives, on of which was disarmament, the disarmament of countries that could be a potential threat to Israel and destroy American interests.

Part II

NC1208103091 Tehran JAHAN-E ELSAM in Persian 30 Jul 91 p 3

[Last of two-part "exclusive" interview with former Interior Minister Ayatollah Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi by unidentified correspondent; place, date not given]

[Text] [Mohtashemi] It was following the Persian Gulf crisis that America started to officially fulfill the rest of its goals. One was disarmament—the disarmament of nations that could pose a potential danger to Israel's existence and destroy American interests.

The second was the disarmament of the Lebanese people, especially the Islamic movements and Lebanon's Islamic resistance, and the third was the solution of the Palestinian crisis.

In connection with regional peace, America seized the opportunity of hegemony and terror that ruled the Arab countries after Iraq's defeat and imposed peace with Israel and the recognition of Israel on the Arabs.

This first began to emerge in countries which had no common borders with Israel and Palestine. For example, what does Kuwait have in common with Palestine for it to want to express its view on peace?

Also, Saudi Arabia and the mercenary rulers of Hejaz agreed to participate in the conference and recognize Israel as a result of an American political move and pressure.

Saudi Arabia may have done this because of its relations with America and its closeness to Israel! Kuwait may have done this as an act of gratitude to America for having saved it! But why Syria?!

I want to discuss Syria and America. You know that Syria is a country that does not have any innate resources or wealth. It is not a modern industrialized country. It does not have rich mineral resources, it does not have oil so it can stand on its own two feet, and it is not an agricultural pillar in the region. The only thing that Syria has is political commerce.

Syria was under Soviet protection in the past when the East, led by the Soviet Union, was a superpower on the international scene. It enjoyed vast economic and military assistance from the Soviet Union. Syria's debts to the Soviet Union amount to $20 billion. Thus, Syria naturally could resist American policies on the Palestinian issue. Syria felt alone with the disintegration of the East Bloc and the messages that Gorbachev and the Russians sent to Syria saying that they no longer pursue past policies, and when the Soviet Union even agreed to reestablish its diplomatic relations with Israel. This was one side of the matter. The other was that it saw the American strength in the Persian Gulf and it thus turned from its past dependence on the East to the West, Europe, and ultimately, America.

For some time, therefore, Syria tried to avoid the regional peace plan through political maneuvers. Syria always postponed this matter, and by resorting to political tactics, did not officially accept it during Baker's four visits to the region. But then Syria thought that if it accepted the American plan, Israel would definitely not accept it and that therefore a large part of the responsibility would be removed from its shoulders and the balance would tip to its benefit and to Israel's detriment.

Therefore, I believe that this also was a political maneuver to which Syria resorted. This time, both Syria and Israel accepted, with the preparations and forecasts America made. In other words, Syria has fallen into an abyss from which it cannot save itself in any way. It should either tread the path of Camp David and al-Sadat, and naturally have a fate similar to the fate of the rest of the Arab leaders in history, or it should commit political suicide and confront America midway. I think that this will have dire consequences. But even though what the Syrian statesmen will do will be political suicide, it nevertheless will be something which the great heroes of Islam have done during the political history of Arab and Islamic countries. This is what we advise it to do.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] The other dimensions of the issue, which you yourself have pointed out, is to spread terror in the hearts of the Arab governments and to create a type of new solidarity among countries which will benefit America. Apart from this, there are the extremely important economic aspects of this issue as far as the big American capitalists, who sold their arms and in front of whom a vast vista opens for the reconstruction of Kuwait and Iraq, are concerned. In your opinion, where does Iraq stand in all this? Was it in coordination with this scenario from the very beginning or not? What is Iraq's situation at any rate?

[Mohtashemi] As for assessing the situation in Iraq and where the Ba'thist Party and Saddam stand in this scenario, I think that today we cannot judge whether Saddam entered the scene on the basis of prearranged plans which foresaw all the overtures that ensued. In other words, we cannot say that for example it had a specific plan and that it had a specific military and security policy in the region with the Soviet Union, or that it started this war and this attack and aggression against Kuwait or that from the start the Americans had such policies and plans which gradually advanced and reached this stage.

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the Soviet leaders' about-face from their principles concerning the various countries that were under their protection [did] Saddam [act] like the various liberation

movements in the world, and naturally a series of countries had relations with the Soviet Union and were considered as Soviet satellites in the world and in the region, when the Soviet Union gave up its friendship pacts or its principles? Or [did it act] like Syria, which did a political about-face and began to search for other contact channels or another political leaning point, or like Cuba and North Korea which tried to stand on their own two feet as best as possible and to resist pressures? Or did it act like Nicaragua, which was crushed under the political pressures of world imperialism led by America and practically lost its sovereignty? The other example is Iraq. Naturally, Iraq had material resources, extremely rich oil resources, vast industries, manpower, and an extremely powerful armed forces on the one hand. On the other hand it gained access to advanced mass destruction weapons such as chemical arms and came close to perfecting its nuclear industries and felt that without leaning on the East, it could stand on its own two feet and officially resort to an act of expansionism and hegemonism by relying on its innate strengths.

This is a hypothesis which America, too, has favored. America wanted its long-term policies to materialize in the region and for the security of the regime occupying Palestine to be ensured. It wanted the regional countries to be disarmed of strategic and sensitive weapons and for the arms that were placed at Iraq's disposal to be destroyed. But this was a long-term process. But Saddam's act hastened this process. What America wanted to do within the next 10 years was done in a year with Saddam's act. In short, Iraq's act was the fulfillment of a sincere wish of the American leaders for achieving their long-term objectives in a short term. Therefore, Saddam became involved in an adventure and a scenario which was favored by America. The end of the war also saw all of America's objectives materializing. Saddam signed and agreed to what America wanted, and thus ultimately sold off all of Iraq and the regional nations, namely Palestine, in a political and international military gamble. It also tipped the balance in regional nations and in the Arab-Israeli conflict to benefit America and Israel. Naturally, America could not have achieved its objectives so simply at such a low cost. But all these were easily placed at the disposal of America and the West.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] This is a topic that can be discussed in detail, as you yourself amply noted. In your opinion, what is the role of nations here? Some governments agreed to this American plan because of their treacherous nature and some because of the difficult conditions that besieged them and because they lack a sense of heroism. Therefore, the role of two elements remain here: One is the role of the Muslim nations in these countries. The other is the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which the people of the world regard as the base of the revolution and expect to play a role such as that in the Camp David affair, which as you yourself stated, was foiled because of the imam's admonition. That admonition, in turn, paved the way for isolating that policy and for al-Sadat's role. What is the role that remains for our system and for nations to play now?

[Mohtashemi] Of course, unfortunately the fact is that we do not know of any ideal popular rule that has risen from among the people to take power in the Islamic and Arab countries. Maybe in all the forty and some Islamic countries, there are only one or two countries where the people play a part in the government. In these one or two countries, the role of the people is not pivotal or significant. But at any rate, they play a role. In view of this bitter reality in Islamic countries, the governments resort to bullying and deceitful policies and they resort to dependences in various forms. If there are countries the nations of which are alert and in the process of a movement—like Tunisia, Algeria, and some other countries—instead of taking care of the basic problems of their nation and adopting [correct] foreign and economic poicies, they start suppressing these Islamic movements and oppressing the people. Of course, apparently if the Muslim nations fail to prioritize the fate of the Islamic countries and fail to realize the fact that the Palestine problem is not the problem of one nation and one region; that the Palestine problem is a problem of the Islamic world and of Islam; that if Palestine is sacrificed at this juncture then not only will the world of Islam but Islam in general will have been defeated, then a serious blow will be inflicted on the Islamic banner which was tattered throughout history, and it is not clear what the near or distant future will be and what tragedy will befall the holy shrines in Mecca and Medina. These nations should grant priority to the fate of a [Muslim] country and of the Islamic world. If this issue is granted priority even above that of these countries' domestic problems, then when it comes to the Palestine problem and once a number of governments want it, unity and solidarity will be created and a chain reaction will take place like it did in the year '48 [1969]. In year '48, the heads of Arab countries, all of whom were mercenaries and dependent, became involved in a comprehensive war. They did not not favor this war with the regime occupying Jerusalem and Palestine and with the entire world of arrogance and the West. Today, too, the heads of these countries want to preserve their rule. But even if they do not confront Israel and America, they will at least be unable to implement the objectives of America and of the regime occupying Palestine, and at least this regional peace of America will be halted at this juncture. This is an elementary opinion on what nations can do.

But as far as the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned, as you yourself stated in the question, the imam and the revolution played a pivotal role in the world of Islam in the first decade of the Revolution and especially as far as the fate of Palestine and of the Palestinian revolution were concerned. The imam stated during the first days after the victory of the Revolution: Today it is Iran and tomorrow it will be Palestine. But by creating an imposed war, world arrogance prevented strong Islamic forces to stand next to the Palestinian forces and to extend material, moral, political, and military support

and assistance to the Palestinian resistance. This revolution neutralized many plots that were aimed at Palestine at various stages under the imam's leadership. One of the specific plots was Reagan's plan on the Palestine problem and Middle East peace. One of the other plots was the one engineered in Morrocco and in Fes, and Fahd's eight-point plan which was approved by the Arab League. The imam said that this plan will be defeated in one of his strongly-worded statements. He attacked Fahd's eight-point plan and questioned its legitimacy. That eight-point plan was a tacit and de facto recognition of the regime occupying Palestine. But the imam's stance followed by massive demonstrations throughout the world and in Lebanon against the Fes plan foiled this plot. Today the Government of Iran can very easily follow the imam's policies and defeat the American plans on Palestine and it can rise to support the Palestinian nation, the intifadah, and the various Palestinian organizations. [It can]:

1. Create unity among the Palestinian resistance forces, including the PLO and the organizations that are outside the PLO framework and Islamic movements inside Palestine and abroad.

2. Create a movement to defend Palestine in the world of Islam and call on the 'ulema in all the Islamic countries to discuss the plots by America, Israel, and the reactionary Arab heads.

3. Organize a practical defense for the Palestine resistance and intensify the anti-Palestine [as published], anti-American, and anti-world arrogance operations as far as this treacherous plot against Palestine is concerned.

There are other practical steps that the Islamic Republic of Iran can take. But unfortunately, the foreign policymakers adopted an extremely heavy and worrying silence which is something unexpected by the Iranian nation and the Islamic countries whose only hopes are attached to the Palestine Conference which the Majles wants to organize next fall. This has cast a ray of hope even in the hearts of the Palestinians and of revolutionaries throughout the world of Islam.

Pakistan

Khan on Fighting Capability, Beg's Retirement

BK1508163291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that the fighting ability and operational preparedness of the armed forces should be maintained at a very high level to deter any adventure by the enemy. He was speaking at a ceremony held in Rawalpindi today to bid farewell to General Mirza Aslam Beg, who retired today as army chief of staff. Those present at the ceremony included Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, National Assembly Speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan, Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadi Ali, federal ministers, senators, members of the National Assembly, diplomats, the joint chiefs of staff committee chairman, and chiefs of the armed forces. The president said armed forces are the defenders of our frontiers and the present geopolitical situation demands that our fighting ability be maintained at a level that no enemy—no matter how big and strong—can dare take any action against us. This important responsibility lies on the shoulders of the armed forces.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan said Pakistan today has an elected government enjoying full support and cooperation of the people by the grace of God. All constitutional institutions are functioning normally and the democracy is becoming stronger day by day. That being so, there is neither any scope nor any possibility of any unconstitutional change whatsoever at any level. Everything is happening according to the Constitution and the law, and it will continue to be so, God willing.

Highly appreciating the services of General Mirza Aslam Beg, the president said the retiring army chief of staff possessed excellent professional capability and leadership qualities and rendered historic services for the consolidation of democracy and development of the country. General Beg, who is a man of action and ideas, introduced new dimensions in Pakistan's strategic planning and refashioned its defense priorities. The credit of organizing the biggest ever military exercise—Zarb-i-Momin—in Pakistan's history to improve the fighting capability of the Army also goes to General Beg. Today, our armed forces possess better capability to teach any aggressor a lesson. The president added that much credit for the persistent efforts to achieve self-reliance in defense production and development of several types of missiles and battle tanks goes to the retiring Army chief. He said General Beg was fully aware of the fact that strong representative institutions are necessary for strong defense and national reconstruction. Under General Beg's leadership, the Army rendered valuable services for upholding the supremacy of the Constitution and establishment of the rule of law, which has created feelings of respect and honor for the Army in the eyes of the people. The significance of the role of the Army can best be understood by those who are aware of the nefarious designs of the enemy and the conspiracies being constantly hatched against Pakistan's territorial integrity and who know how our political stability has become an eyesore for the jealous and malevolent people and how their own abominable ambitions are reflected by their baseless speculations about various unconstitutional changes. Those involved in conspiracies can neither reach the depth of the patriotism of the Army and nor can they understand the intensity with which every soldier or officer of the armed forces considers himself responsible for defending Pakistan's territorial integrity and for maintaining its honor.

The president said the change in the command of the armed forces is a routine phenomenon and that there is nothing extraordinary or surprising about this. He added that now all eyes are set on General Asif Nawaz Janjua,

the new commander of the armed forces. Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that, seeing General Asif Nawaz's patriotism, character, intelligence, and professional capability, he is confident that he will carry forward the mission of improving the defense capabilities of the Pakistani Army to make it stronger. He is hopeful that Janjua will make remarkable additions to the traditions set by his predecessors.

Speaking on the occasion, General Mirza Aslam Beg said it is a matter of satisfaction that his tenure has proved useful and fruitful. He said like every soldier, the territorial integrity and security of the country had been an article of faith with him. General Mirza Aslam Beg was presented a guard of honor and a salute on his arrival at the venue of the ceremony.

3 Gas Leaks Near Rawalpindi; 2 Under Control

BK1608102491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] The Occidental Oil Company controlled two of the three gas leakages from Pindori oil and gas fields near Rawalpindi. The leakage started late Sunday [11 August] night. Official sources told Radio Pakistan's representative today that the company has been able to [word indistinct] change direction of the third leakage. It is hoped that the third leakage would be controlled today or tomorrow and the gas would then be burned. These sources said that the situation would be be completely under control during the next few days. An expert from Kuwait has also arrived in Pakistan and is assisting in the control of the gas leakage.

Meanwhile, the federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan, visited the site yesterday where the leakage occurred. He also met those affected. Expressing concern for the safety of the people, the minister said that a four-member committee which would coordinate between the affected people, local administration and the oil company. [sentence as heard] He said compensation should also be paid to those affected. Chaudhary Nisar Ali told the people that the evacuation was solely a precautionary measure and soon they would be (?able) to come back to their homes. He directed the company authorities to (?increase) facilities such as tents, bedding and ration for the affected people.

2,000 Evacuated

BK1608095491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0924 GMT 16 Aug 91

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 16 (AFP)—Some 2,000 people have been evacuated from a village south of here following a massive gas leak from a well operated by U.S.-based Occidental Petroleum, company sources said Friday.

Several foreign experts, including one from Red Adair's company, have arrived in Pakistan to try and limit the damage.

So far, they have succeeded in shutting off a valve at the source of the leak, the sources said.

The problem, arising from what Occidental described as a "mechanical failure," began Sunday in the firm's Pindori Well, some 70 kilometres (44 miles) south of Islamabad, which produces about 6,000 barrels of oil and 2.3 million cubic metres (80 million cubic feet) of gas per day.

The leak was accompanied by a ruptured line and the gas, which was still escaping, was being channelled towards some pits where it would be burned Friday or Saturday, a spokesman for Occidental said.

The spokesman said "considerable progress" had been made since Sunday in the repair work, although a state of alert remained in force.

The repair operation has cost more than one million dollars so far, the spokesman said, adding that 2,000 people had been evacuated from the neighbouring village of bains.

The company has provided food, tents and medicines for those affected by the leak, the spokesman said, adding that medical teams were looking after some people who "were complaining of eye irritation."

Maldivian President Begins 3-Day Visit

BK1408143291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of Maldives arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a three-day visit to Pakistan. The Maldivian president, who is also the chairman of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, was received by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and others at the airport.

Meets Prime Minister Sharif

BK1508164891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] The Maldives president, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, had talks with the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, in Islamabad and Murree today. The two leaders discussed SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] issues and bilateral relations in a fraternal and cordial atmosphere.

The prime minister congratulated Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom on his successful tenure as chairman of the SAARC and constructive contributions made by him for the promotion and development of SAARC. On bilateral relations, Mr. Nawaz Sharif assured the president of the Maldives of increased cooperation between the two countries. The prime minister hosted a lunch at Murree for the distinguished guest.

The delegations of the Maldives and Pakistan met in Islamabad today and exchanged views on the need to make SAARC more functional and activities concrete

and action-oriented. The Maldivian delegation accompanying President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom was headed by the deputy foreign minister of the Maldives, Mr. (Daim Hussaim Zaki). The foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, led the Pakistani delegation. During the meeting, the deputy foreign minister of the Maldives briefed the Pakistani officials on the implementation of the decisions made during the fifth SAARC summit held in Male in November last year. The two sides also agreed to explore further avenues for extending the scope of bilateral cooperation.

Pakistan has decided to provide a grant of 46 million rupees to the Maldives for the construction of a new parliament building in Male as a gesture of goodwill and solidarity toward the brotherly people of the Maldives.